



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtowndownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.27

July 4, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

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

Hot local news in July 1977

Here's what was going on in the Downingtown area 36 years ago, according to articles in the *East Branch Citizen*, a weekly newspaper published at that time:

Mrs. Betty Prior, Mrs. Pat Domenick and Mrs. Helen Heugel were co-directors of the Vacation Bible School at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown. Members of the teaching staff included Betty Hayes, Carol Leffler, Sara Perkins, Elaine Bandel, Donna Cattell, and Diana Woodruff.

Local **Boy Scouts** who went on a 214-mile wilderness camping trip at the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, NM, were Bill Golding, Tim Lang, David Lewis, Tom Reber, J. Nintz, Mark Kottmeyer, Craig Artz, Steve Gates, Bill Painter, Brian Harrop and John Barrington. John Miller was their adult leader.

Recent **property transfers** included: 24 Hastings Ct., East Brandywine, \$32,000; 11 Christine Dr., Upper Uwchlan, \$59,440; 1019 Ericsson Dr., West Bradford, \$54,990; 400 Longwood Dr., Uwchlan, \$60,500; 220 Hunt Ave., Downingtown, \$45,950; and 131 Woodland Ct., East Caln, \$61,000.

The staff at **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School included Eileen Fetterman, Catherine Trimble, Alice Shoemaker, Jennie Lowery, Mildred Geringer, Brenda Johnson, Dorothy Perdue, Marty Shupard, Jane Hill, Joan Mackin, Melody Herr, Nancy Heriegel, Brenda McFarland, Debbie Kane, Pat Tuting, Richard Purcell and Holy Marshall.

Local students who graduated from **Drexel University** were Kenneth Feldman, Constance Matthews, Leona Petri, John Recchiuti and Bruce Shipley.

Joe Cincotta, Tom Stretch and John Stalder, members of Boy Scout Troop 83, Lionville, were installed as Eagle Scouts.

Winners of a peanut hunt at the **Beaver Creek playground**, supervised by Susan Noyes and Diane DiMartin, were Cheryl Bacon, Julie Keeny, Teresa Burns and Gracy Talley. Also, kickball stars at the **Lionville playground** were Ricky Kaluza, Fred Strong, Jeff Moore, Scott Thompson, Lisa Lynch, Patty Welch, Brendan McCahon and Shawn Traynor.

Recently elected officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were JoAnn Ogborn, president; Marcia McQueen, first vice president; Sue McDermott, second vice president; Kathy Deisinger, corresponding secretary; Kathy Doyle, recording secretary; and Shirley Pinola, treasurer.

New records were set by Rob Ungvary and Bill Pitkin of **Pennypacker Swim Club**, and Michele Adams and Chris McShane of **St. Anthony's swim team** as Pennypacker beat St. Anthony's.

Mary Ann Crawford, former All-American for national champion **Immaculata's Mighty Macs**, supervised the Downingtown's girls' basketball program.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League** all star team were Gary Francella, Brad Novak, Tom McCool, Mike Melvin, Mike McShane, Tom Dooley, Rick Smith, Tom Sheridan, Andy Mento, Bob Mahan, Jeff Williams, Glen Harman, Bill Snyder, Penn Frey and Marc Ruggiano.

The Southeast National Bank team won the **Downingtown Girls Softball League**. Members of the team were Cheryl Caridi, Janet Gbur, Tracy Keen, Danine DiBernardi, Sherri Clayton, Terry Wombough, Sheila Lyons, Lisa O'Neill, Shelley Steele, Laurie Geschwindt, Sue Hipple and Robin Sommers. They were coached by Mary Kay Conahan and Shirley O'Neill.

More info on 218 Brandywine Avenue



The photo of 218 Brandywine Ave. in Downingtown--shown above and taken by Mike Dunn-- was the What & Where Is This? picture, published in a recent Hist-O-Gram. We recently talked to Patti Dukeman Henry, who lived in the house from 1951 until about 1968, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Dukeman, and her grandmother, Mary Dukeman. Her grandmother sold the house about 45 years ago to the MacDonald family, who operated an antique shop in the barn behind the house. Chris Wrenn, the current owner who bought the place in 1990, converted the barn into an apartment. Patti, now retired from DOPACO, resides in Morgantown with her husband Bob.

It's the MacFarland House in East Brandywine



Peter Chim is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo, taken by Mike Dunn, of the MacFarland House on North Buck Road, near the intersection of Buck Road, in Easy Brandywine.

The original part of the house was built before 1800 on farmland granted by William Penn to a member of the MacFarland family in 1747. Originally, the farm stretched down to Route 322. Although several structures on the property and land were sold off over the years, the estate still includes other buildings besides the house, including a barn, a tenant house and the former Buck School.

Soon after Col. Charles W. MacFarland inherited the property in 1937, he initiated a restoration project, which included additions to the house. The project was continued for several decades but it was never totally completed before MacFarland died in 1991. Most of the project was done under the guidance of architect R. Brognard Okie, who was well known in the Delaware Valley for his new Colonial Revival houses, as well as restoring 18th Century buildings. When R. Brognard Okie died in 1945, the project was taken over by his son, Charles T. Okie.

A master's thesis on the house was done in 1998 by Rebecca A. Geist, while she was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to a history of the house, the thesis includes many photos and detailed drawings related to the project. You can access the thesis at: <http://archive.org/stream/macfarlanhousesu00geis#page/n5/mode/2up>

You deserve to spend a quiet afternoon at the Clip Joint

We hope you have a wonderful Fourth of July weekend. However, we suspect you'll be exhausted after all that grilling and chilling. That's why you deserve to spend a quiet afternoon (from 1-4 PM, but you can come and go as you please) on Sunday, July 7 at the Historical Society's Ashbridge House on Route 30 in East Caln. There's lots of parking available in the Chick-Fil-A lot next door.

You'll discover that clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection can be sooo soothing.

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Lions Club Golf Outing

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Downingtown Farmers Market

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

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

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

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Banquet Room for Rent

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

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Vol. 4, No.28

July 11, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Hot Downingtown area news 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in February 1946.

Charles Emery was named supervising principal (school superintendent) by the Downingtown School Board, after Dr. Charles Chaffee resigned from that position. Chaffee left Downingtown to become superintendent of the public school system in Stratford, Conn, an affluent suburb 45 miles north of New York City. He had been supervising principal in Downingtown for nine years.

Emery started his career in education when he was hired as a teacher at West Ward Elementary School in Downingtown in 1932. The following year, he was appointed

principal at West Ward. After serving as principal of the Easttown Consolidated School in Berwyn for two years, Emery returned to Downingtown in 1943, as principal of the Junior-Senior High School

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Building and Loan Association** were Joseph Philips, president; Edgar Griffith, first vice president; George Foreman, second vice president; Chandler Roberts, secretary; Joseph Miller, treasurer; and Asa Pannebaker, solicitor, Directors elected included George Perry, Park Plank, Ray Sheeler, Howard Baldwin, Robert Ash, Lewis Downing, Sherman Kirkpatrick, Raymond Greenleaf, Edwin Baldwin and John Fisher.

Romig Electronic Service--which specialized in repairing radios, washers, irons, lamps, toasters and heaters--opened its new business at 121 Washington Ave., Downingtown, which had been the site of the local Ration Board during WW II and is where Sam's Pizza shop is now located.

The **Glenmoore Fire Co.** had a turkey dinner, prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary, for local returning servicemen. Following the dinner, there was vocal entertainment by Norman Charles, Granville McCardell, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mercer, Jack Pannebaker, Elmer Dunwoody, and Doris and Jean Van Meter.

DHS students who spoke on juvenile delinquency at a meeting of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dave Hutson, Antoinette Petrella, Margaret Roop, George Windolph, Eileen Wharry and Dave McCardell. And DHS art teacher Mary Mahan passed around paper, scissors, paste and ribbons, so she could instruct the Lions on how to make their own Valentine cards.

Girl Scout Troop 54, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co., had a Valentine's Dance at the fire hall. Music was provided by Frank Natalie's orchestra.

Cub Pack 52 of Marshallton had a birthday party for Cubs Gerald Powell, Robert Sellers and Myrle English.

Elected as officers of the Women's Missionary Society of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Mrs. Rodney Russell, president; Mrs. Clarence Dorsey, vice president; Mrs. Norman Howe, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Harvey, treasurer.

Downingtown's Charles Moran **American Legion Post**, which had 151 members at the time, announced plans to buy a Post home.

Downingtown Junior High's basketball team ended its 18-game winning streak (stretching back into the 1944-45 season) when Coach Don White's squad lost to Pottstown. Stars on the team were Pete and Bill Hayes, and Sonny Milano.

Dorlan's Mills had a Post Office for 18 years

Although many hamlets in the U.S. make a valiant effort today to keep their Post Office, despite a declining population, that didn't happen in 19th Century Dorlan's Mills, in Upper Uwchlan Township.

Apparently, the Post Office in Dorlan's Mills was a family affair, because Thomas Dorlan was appointed the first postmaster in 1870, and the postal unit was located in the paper mill, owned and operated by his father, James Dorlan.

According to an article in the February 26, 1946 edition of the *Daily Local News*, Thomas Dorlan's brother, Samuel, took over in 1872, until 1877, when Henry Barrett took over the commission for six years and moved the office into his house. In 1883,

Samuel Dorlan gave it another shot for three years, before he resigned and shut down the tiny Post Office in July 1886 because little business was done there. However, many Dorlan's Mills residents fought the closure, and the Post Office was re-opened in August 1886. But that arrangement only lasted about 18 months; the Post Office was permanently closed in 1888.

It's at 30 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown



Rahn Brackin was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the photo above of the building at 30 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown. It is currently the first structure west of the Downingtown Police Station. In recent years, it has been the site of several commercial enterprises on the first floor. The upper floors are apartments. Gene Martin, DHS Class of 1965 and now a retired teacher living in New Hampshire, provided the photo.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

Concerts in the Park Series

The concert series continues in Kerr Park, Downingtown, on Sunday, July 21, when Midnight Social plays from 5 PM - 7 PM. More information is available at:

www.downingtowncountypa.com

Red Cross Blood Drive

The blood drive will be conducted from 2 PM – 7 PM Wednesday, July 31 in the Annex Building, behind Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Here's a link to more information and registration: [Downingtown Borough Blood Drive](#)

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Vol. 4, No.29

July 18, 2013

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Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are items which were originally published in local newspapers in late July 1961.

The **Downingtown Joint High School Board** rejected all seven bids for a new football stadium because they were far higher than the estimates—between \$8,600 and \$11,600, depending on contingencies—provided a month earlier. The lowest bid was \$18,039.

And Guy Kline, guidance counselor, provided a report to the School Board on the quality of the **Junior-Senior High School's education program**. Using the 126 members of the DHS Class of 1956 as a barometer, Kline said 26 graduates from that class had entered college, and 14 of them had earned a degree by 1960. Also, 51% of the members of the Class of 1961 planned to attend college

Members of the **Downingtown Lions Club**, responsible for sponsoring the Mills Brothers Circus slated to appear at the Downingtown Farmer's Market in August, included Edward Towson, Vinton Smedley, Ben Valocchi, Warren Strawsnyder, Horace

Rodgers, Edmund Cohill, Ethan Berry and Dr. Anthony Ricci, club president. Proceeds from the project were given to Handi-Crafters.

Winners of the hat show at the **Marshallton School playground** were Joe Giunta, most original; Cindy Edwards, most unusual; Villamay Osborne, prettiest; Mike Riggins, biggest; Franny Wood, most democratic; and Carl Harper, simplest, but the best.

And winners of the hobby show at the **Alert fire hall playground** were Tony Moschitta, first; Jack Swisher, second; Linda Stoner, third; Vincent Cozzone, fourth; David Hemberger, fifth; and Denine Koth, sixth.

The recently opened sports center at the **Downingtown Farmers Market** featured the first, modern trampoline in Chester County. In addition to a trained instructor, the trampoline center featured competitions for various age groups.

The **Ship Inn** on Route 30 in Exton was promoting a Businessmen's Lunch for only 90 cents. Also, baked ham and western egg sandwiches cost just 40 cents.

Members of an executive committee, established at a meeting of the **Marsh Creek Taxpayers Association**, included B. Franklin Peirson, president; Frederick Higham, vice president; J. Morris Jackson, secretary-treasurer; Col. Horace Shelmire; Richard Howell; and Howard Meroney. Jackson said the organization was willing to take their fight against the State's plans to dam the Marsh Creek and create a large lake and park facilities in Upper Uwchlan, "all the way to the State Supreme Court."

Walter Leland, Downingtown borough manager, reported that it cost each borough resident "just 52 cents a year" to maintain the 45-acre **Kerr Park**.

Playwright seeks info from June 2012 Hist-O-Grams

As we've often noted in past editions of the Hist-O-Gram, our Historical Society is much more than a 304-year-old building. In fact, we wouldn't be able to keep the Historical Society alive if we didn't constantly maintain and upgrade our archival collection, as well as our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

That's why volunteers come to Ashbridge House every week to clip articles from old and current newspapers, and paste them on large index cards. The index cards—which now total more than 8,000—include articles on local businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and other institutions, as well as Family Files (i.e. weddings, graduations, obituaries, etc.).

And those news articles don't just recline in filing cabinets at Ashbridge House. People often ask us to retrieve specific articles in our archival collection, for a nominal search fee.

We recently received a query about 30 newspaper articles in our archives, which were the basis of a two-part story in Hist-O-Grams we published in June 2012. The story was about Evelyn Hoey, a singing star on Broadway who introduced classics such as "What is This Thing Called Love" and "April in Paris." The story focused on the vocalist's mysterious shooting death while she was a weekend guest at a playboy's farmhouse in Glenmoore in 1935. The request was sent by a playwright, who needs the information for a musical she is writing.

You can access that two-part story by clicking on:

www.downingtownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/June%2014%202012%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf and

www.downingtownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/June%2021%202012%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

It's a spring house on Shelmire Road in Uwchlan Twp.



Seth Boer was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the site of the spring house in the photo above (taken by Mike Dunn) as part of a property on Shelmire Road in Uwchlan Township.

Shelmire Road was named after Col. Horace W. Shelmire (1886-1965), who bought a large property, then known as Old Forge Farm, located on that road in 1931. Since Col. Shelmire had served in the military during World War I and was in his mid-50s when WW II started, he was turned down when he volunteered to join the Army again, according to an article in the June 3 edition of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper.

That rejection stung Shelmire because at least one member of his family had fought in every war the United States had been involved in. In fact, his great-grandfather, Capt. John Shelmire, was an aide to Gen. Washington at the Battle of the Brandywine.

However, Shelmire's disappointment didn't last long, because Gen. "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Force and Shelmire's classmate at Lower Merion High School, asked him to come to Washington to be his chief aide.

But Shelmire didn't spend much time in Washington as a Pentagon desk jockey. Instead, after earning his wings, his assignments included North Africa and 18 months as commander of a B-29 Group on the island of Saipan, where he was responsible for building an air field. Ironically, Shelmire closely resembled Lt. Col Nicholson, portrayed by Alec Guinness in the Oscar-winning 1957 film *Bridge On the River Kwai*.

Also as a commander on Saipan, Shelmire earned a Legion of Merit medal for his personal involvement in the disposal of dangerous dud bombs. During the 1950s, he was head of the Civil Defense efforts in Chester County.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.30

July 25, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Downingtown area news in August 1961

The items noted below were originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

The 18th annual **Amphibious Order of Frogs** dinner was held at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown. Leaders of the organization were Arthur Petrella, bull rama; Attilio Sciaretta, president; Ben Valocchi, secretary; Clifton Walton; Anthony DiGiovantonio; John Julian; Joe Leto; Anthony Gazzo; Oscar DiBerardinis; Harry Cole; Armand Taraschi and Vincent DiEulis.

The bell, which had been in the belfry of the original **Lionville School** since 1859, was refurbished by Dr. Seth Pope, a member of the Uwchlan School Board. Then the bell was recently placed in the new Lionville Elementary School.

Members of the team that won the scavenger hunt at the **East Ward playground** were John Johnson, Caroline Kline, Bill Klunk, Tom Hipple and Louis Mascherino.

Winners in the bike show at the **Alert Fire Hall** playground, Downingtown, were Ceil Tremul, first; Jeanne Keen, second; and Brenda Murphy, third. Marcella Echoff had the most unusual bike, and Susan Getty won the most decorated bike competition.

The **Downingtown Optimist Club** had a picnic for all the youngsters who participated in the summer playground program. They consumed over 700 hot dogs and 20 watermelons.

Downingtown Borough Council agreed to accept a deal, whereby the **Philadelphia Electric Co.** would install new street lights, without overhead wiring, on Lancaster Avenue, between Manor Avenue and Green Street, as well as other streets near Center Square. The borough only had to pay \$3,600 toward the \$90,000 project. The borough also paid \$100 for each of the new, ornamental light standards.

And plans for a **residential community and a medical center**, on 37 acres near the intersection of Routes 30 and 113 in Downingtown, were presented to Borough Council. The plan called for 27 single homes, ranging in price from \$22,000 to \$28,000, and 135 two-bedroom apartment units.

Five merchants at the **Downingtown Farmers Market**, who sold goods on Sunday, were cited by Chester County detectives for Blue Law violations. The citations were turned over to Samuel Corliss, East Caln Justice of the Peace.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from Glenmoore who completed the **Red Cross Life Saving** program were Miriam Ezrah, Peggy Funk, Elwood March, Mia Spies and Ann Galt.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 2**, Downingtown, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe, were David Landis, Jimmy and Peter Duca, Larry Nuse, Richard Stine, Edward Dazio, James Graf, John McGuckin and Michael Parlett. The troop's committee included John Brownstein, Lambert McGuckin, Emery Langham, Joseph Newlin, Earl Shirk, Fred Gates and John Scarborough.

Officers of the **Downingtown Elementary Parents Club** were Mrs. Charles Menas, president; Mrs. Kenneth McCardell, vice president; Mrs. Ira Buckwalter, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Robert Flagg, recording secretary; and Mrs. Robert Forrest, treasurer.

The opening of **Beaver Creek School** in Downingtown was the highlight of the beginning of the 1961-62 school year. The new school had 550 students from the borough and parts of East Caln, West Bradford and Uwchlan, including all sixth graders in the Downingtown Joint Elementary District. The cost of constructing the school was \$700,000.

The eighth annual **West Bradford Fire Co. Fair** was held on the grounds of the Marshallton School. The committee for the week-long fair included Edwin Hill, Ernest Fling, James Anderson, Milton Durnall, James Knapp, Earl Edwards, George Fling and Harry Perdue.

Entertainers at the fair were Warren Mercer and his Royal Ramblers, the Lukens Steel Band and Little Nick and His Lords.

The **Broad Run Midget Car Races** opened in West Bradford with a new track and several new drivers. Twenty drivers were expected to be competing on Labor Day.

Members of the **Pickering Stitches 4-H Club** in Chester Springs included Pam and Donna Twaddell, Debbie Seiple, Kathleen Johnson, Jan Fuhr, Jackie West, Carolyn Mill, Joy Henssler, Cynthia Myer, Marsha and Kay Dawson, and Judy Sload.

Lydia Herr of Lionville was one of the 130 farm girls and boys in Pennsylvania who won an all-expense paid trip to Juniata College to study **farm cooperatives**. Walter Jankowski, Chester Springs; Elizabeth Herr, Lionville; and Robert Ruark, Lionville; also participated in the program sponsored by the Chester-Delaware Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

About 200 people attended the **Downingtown Rotary Club's** annual clambake, held at the home of Dr. James McCahon on Route 30. Members of the clambake committee were Ralph Lineinger, Dr. McCahon, Herbert Ash, Everett Griffith, William Kline and William Balderson.

We learned about some of the farm's history



We ran this photo of a 1947 enamel sign, which was for sale on eBay, in the June 6 Hist-O-Gram, with hopes of determining where the Seven Springs Tree Farm was located. Well, we finally got part of the story, when we learned from Scott Piersol, manager of East Brandywine Township, that the 30-acre farm was located along Creek Road (Route 282), near the intersection of Township Road. And Don Greenleaf, retired Downingtown borough manager, informed us that Jack Stutt, a DuPont executive, had purchased the property sometime before WW II. Also, Dan Arters of East Brandywine recalled that Stutt started transforming the farm into the Seven Springs Water Co. in the late 1940s, when he hired three men to hand-dig troughs from each of the farm's seven springs to a processing and bottling plant he had built on the property.

Arters, who used to haul the bottled spring water to commercial accounts in Philadelphia in the early 1950s, claims Stutt was a pioneer in the bottled water business.

And according to Barbara Paul's *History of East Brandywine*, a 1957 newspaper ad welcomed people to "fill as many jugs as you wish for 25 cents."

Stutt sold the property and the bottling operation in 1961, but we haven't been able to determine who bought it then. However, several people told us that the place was the site of a major gambling operation, which was raided by the state police in the 1960s.

Also, a 1987 article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that, after the business was sold to the Wissahickon Water Co. around 1980, the system was upgraded so the spring water was funneled, via underground pipes under Creek Road, into the plant's three fiberglass tanks, each with a capacity of 12,000 gallons. Then the water was purified and passed into the bottling room, where six employees finished the process. The water company is no longer operated at the site.

(Editor's Note: We'd loved to have more info on this topic.)

No one identified the site in this photo



We'll run this photo at another time. Hint: The site isn't in Uwchlan Twp., as several people thought.

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Red Cross Blood Drive

The blood drive will be conducted from 2 PM – 7 PM Wednesday, July 31 in the Annex Building, behind Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Here's a link to more information and registration: [Downingtown Borough Blood Drive](#)

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Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downtown Area Historical Society. If you want to become a subscriber, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website:

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

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Vol. 4, No.31

August 1, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

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

Hot local news in August 1977

Here's what was going on in the Downingtown area 36 years ago, according to articles in the East Branch Citizen, a weekly newspaper published at that time:

An appeal hearing for the proposed construction of **Neumann Hospital** along Route 322, near the Downingtown-Caln border, was held at Downingtown High School. The State Secretary of Health had denied approval of the hospital's plan to provide 140 acute care beds and 180 extended care beds, after the Regional Comprehensive Health Council rejected the application because there was no need for another hospital in the Downingtown area. Coatesville Hospital was also seeking approval of a plan to build a facility in Caln. A decision was projected to be announced in the fall.

Pennypacker Swim Club won the Brandywine Swim League. St. Anthony's Chris McShane was named the league's outstanding female swimmer, and Rob Ungvary of Pennypacker was the top male.

Winners of the **Home Run Derby**, conducted by the Downingtown Recreation Commission at Kerr Park, were: eight and nine year olds: Steve Doan, first; Paul Mento, second; Rich Poluch, third. Among 10, 11 and 12 year olds, the winners were Jeff Guyon, first; Scott Ramsey, second; Bob Broderick, third. Winners in the 13, 14 and 15 year old group were Stacy Thatcher, first; Victor Johnson, second; and John Vandenberg, third.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1508 Stouff Rd., West Bradford, \$52,750; 105 Saddle Dr., Uwchlan, \$59,500; 361 Mary St., Downingtown, \$33,000; 121 Chapel Ct., East Brandywine, \$42,300; 38 Christine Dr., Upper Uwchlan, \$61,540; 301 Norwood Rd., East Caln, \$70,000.

The **Downingtown Jaycees**, who recently sponsored the Hoxie Brothers Circus, charged \$1.50 per car when they held a car wash on the grounds of St. Joseph's School.

The staff of the Vacation Bible School at **Central Presbyterian Church** included Robin Radcliff, Patti Forbes, Heather and Judy Bullock, Michele Haddock, Karen Guglielmo, Susan Pannebaker, Debbie Petty, Diane Banghart, Jackie Willard, Scott Wilson, Sarah Sullivan, Dee Worthington, Craig Artz and Kay Jones.

Members of **Troop 183**, who attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Moraine State Park, PA, included Mike Burkhart, Anthony Fiore, Rusty Scheid, Rich Ryan, Victor Hagerstrom, John Foster, Andy Rolen and Jeff Kane.

Members of the Bright Whites, from the **Downingtown Area Junior Tennis League** who won the Chester County championship, were Debbie Dunleavy, Tim and Jim McCarthy, Scott Evans, Tom and Holly Keane, Rob Patrylak, Kathy Gillooly and Suzanne Spahn.

The American Legion team in the Pee Wee Division of the **Downingtown Little League** included Robert Brown, Randy and Tim Mahan, Michael Winkler, Bobby Gregg, Max Hammer, Martin Egan, Michael Gaffney, Barry Angeny, Brad Titus, Jarvis Davis, Doug Williams, Chris Thomas, Chris Petrangell and Wayne Clark.

Melvin Cohen, school director from Uwchlan, proposed that smoking should be banned in all buildings in the **Downingtown Area School District**. Cohen claimed it was "hypocritical" for the School District to prohibit students from smoking on school property.

Supervised by adult leaders Pat Tuting and Pat Leon Guerro, some 35 **Girl Scouts** in the Downingtown Service Unit attended a day camp in Kerr Park, Downingtown. The cost for each girl to attend the two-week camp was only \$8.25.

It's 120 Bradford Ave. in Downingtown



Many people were baffled by the *What and Where Is This?* photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram because we had purposely cropped out the first floor of the building, which is shown above in the original picture, taken by Mike Dunn. Despite that challenge, Marybeth Fusco, who lives on Bradford Avenue in the Johnstown section of the borough, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as 120 Bradford Avenue.

Teresa Talucci, who grew up in Johnstown and still has family there, provided us with some interesting info on the history of the building, primarily because her uncle, Vince Talucci, as well as others, owned the property over the years.

First of all, no one would use the term “posh” to describe the interior of the first floor, when a tiny barroom was operated there. And ever since it was a speakeasy during the Prohibition era (1920-1932), customers had to stand because there were no stools or seats. Another attraction was the trough beneath the bar so male customers could relieve themselves or spit their tobacco in it.

Joe and May Romano, who primarily operated it in the pre-World War II days, are the first owners of the taproom we could determine. After Joe died, Vince Talucci owned and operated the bar, until he sold it to Dominic “Little Midge” Talucci and his wife, Ruth. And when Little Midge passed, his widow sold it back to Vince Talucci.

Most Johnsontown residents weren’t thrilled with the place, especially when “dancing girls” hung out there. The final straw was in the mid-1960s, when there was a shooting and a Liquor Control Board investigation ensued. Subsequently, the place was shut down after many neighbors signed a petition requesting that the place be closed. After a bar was no longer in business there, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Yohn, now both deceased, and members of their family, lived on the upper floors for many years.

“I remember as a kid,” recalls Teresa, the bottom floor of the building “was just a dark empty space where the owners of the house above stored stuff, back in the 1970’s and I haven’t seen it opened since.”

According to Victor Taraschi, the building now is a rental property, owned by Eric DiSantis and a partner.

Friends and family can become Hist-O-Gram subscribers

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More info on former Seven Springs Water Co.

Joseph Panichelli, who was associated with Wissahickon Spring Water Co. for many years, told us it was that firm which bought the former Seven Springs Water Co. in 1961. He also said the East Brandywine operation was shut down about 12-15 years ago, because the company started accessing spring water from sites in northern Pennsylvania because the water there was more plentiful and of better quality.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, Aug. 4

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

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 4, No.32

August 8, 2013

Where and What Is This?



The first person who correctly identifies the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your photo identity to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

News items about the Downingtown area 67 years ago

Noted below are snapshots of what was going on in the Downingtown area, according to local newspapers published in March 1946.

Paul Dague of Downingtown announced his candidacy for Congress. Dague, Chester County Sheriff at the time, ran for the Ninth District (parts of Chester and Lancaster Counties) Congressional seat, which had been held by Roland Kinzer who retired after serving 17 years.

The following students participated in a program at the **Font School** in Upper Uwchlan: Harvey and Joseph Styer; Janet and Doris Hoffman; Barbara and Alice Trego; Shirley Garvine; Billy, Betty, Wesley and Rose Peck; Shirley Wenger; Joanne Davis; Mary, Marjorie and Margaret Henley; and Horace Smith.

The Downingtown School Board approved a plan to survey the community regarding the possibility of establishing **kindergarten classes**. The classes would be limited to students attending elementary schools in Downingtown.

A \$15,000 grant was made to **Camp Indian Run** in Glenmoore by the Rowell Foundation. The camp served Girl Scouts from the Philadelphia area.

Downingtown students who participated in a **piano recital** at West Ward School were: Eleanor DiEuliis, Betty Gilken, Connie Hamilton, Ralph Miller, Bobby Brookover, Sara Taylor, Kathleen D'Attilio, Faye Bousum, Tommy Brookover, Shirley Cumens, Katherine Watson, Marion Wilkerson, Donald Chaffee, Barbara Seibert, Paul Miller, Catherine Myers, Charles Philips, Ruth Moore, Dorothy Ingram, Phyllis Griffith and Nancy Brookover.

Members of **Cub Pack 52**, Marshallton, who participated in an orientation program for prospective den mothers, were Ronald Yetter, Robert Bunting, Myrle Ellis, Robert Nivison, Dale Ellingsworth, Vernon Fellenbaum, Donald Liney, Jackie Clouser, Fred Frame, Robert McCue, Joseph Ferri, Earle Young, Harold Trimble, and Sandy Morris.

New members of the **Brandywine Post No. 845, Downingtown**, were: Joseph Travaglini, William Sheridan, William Wilmot, Joseph Valente, Anthony Valocchi, William Wood, Anthony Viscichini, Dominic Luminello, Richard Johnson, Richard Miller, Anthony Sciarretta, Roman Girafalco, William Kellon, Pat Farnum, Anthony Pasqualino, Anthony DiEuliis, James Glauner, John and Tom Quinn, Red Baker, Joseph Swarner and Earl Fisher.

Officers for the **4-H Club at Lionville School** were Mildred Pyle, president; Carolyn Supplee, vice president; and Janet Wallace, secretary-treasurer. New members included Meredith Ruark, Bobby Stevens and Dorinda Mabry.

Hopewell United Methodist Church, East Brandywine, had a "**Woolworth Supper.**" Featured on the menu were roast beef, creamed chicken and patty shells. (*Editor's Note: Can someone tell us what a Woolworth Supper was?*)

Speaking of unusual meals, W.I. Pollock Jr. provided the **bear meat**, which was served to members at a meeting of the Downingtown Rotary Club. Elected directors of the club were J. Shartle Brookover, Herman Faucett, Leo Hamilton, Robert Peters, Herman Kramm, Peter Van der Hiel and Richard Warren.

Elected officers of the **Catholic War Veterans**, Post 441, of Downingtown, were Sid Mento, commander; John Muzii, first vice commander; Dominic DiBerardinis, second vice commander; Anthony Sciarretta, third vice commander; Joseph Fennelly, Anthony Serafino, and Edward Gillespie, trustees; and Anthony Natalie, welfare officer.

Members of the **DHS debating team**, which competed against the debaters from Oxford High School, included Margaret Roop, George Windolph, David Haxton, Emerson King, Jean Esworthy, Marjorie Windle, Hibbert Wells and David McCardell.

Employees of the **Downingtown Iron Works**, who had been on strike for 10 weeks, agreed to return to work, after they settled for wage increases of 18.5 cents to 26 cents per hour. Employees in higher paid classifications, such as welders, accepted increases of at least 15.5 cents per hour.

Members of the Junior Boys class in the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Dick Stoudt, Harold Trego, Joe Miller, George and Meredith Ruark, Richard and David Taylor, and Charles Long.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 67**, who offered vocal dramatizations at a public program, were Jane and Joan Romig, Joan Lenhardt, Doris Chaffee, Joan Sheehan, Eleanor and Mary Jane Detterline, Jane Deputy and Shirley Schultz. The troop's leader was Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks.

It's the Byers Hotel in Upper Uwchlan



Bonnie Radford is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this photo of the Byers Hotel on Byers Road in Upper Uwchlan Township. It was built in 1874 in the hamlet known as Byers Station.

It “was a first-class hotel,” which featured individual potbellied stoves in 12 guest rooms, a wine cellar, a ladies’ sitting room, a smoking lounge, an oyster bar and a dining room open to the public, according to a February 20, 1982 article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. But indoor plumbing wasn’t installed until 1954. The hotel was converted to a rooming house in 1946. In recent years, it was divided into two residences. For details on the history of Byers Station, see: www.livingplaces.com/PA/Chester_County/Upper_Uwchlan_Township/Byers_Station_Historic_District.html.

The Imbrogio on Bradford Avenue

First of all, let’s untangle the facts. Marybeth Fusco was correct when she identified the building in the “What & Where Is This” photo in the July 25 Hist-O-Gram as 120 Bradford Ave. in the Johnstown section of the borough.

And yes, the bar, whose distinctive ambience we described at length in the August 1 Hist-O-Gram, was operated over the years by Joe Romano, “Little Midge” Talucci and Vince Talucci.

However, we learned last week that the location of that bar was at 132 Bradford Ave. and not at 120 Bradford Ave.

We became aware of that fact when Sebastian “Busty” Ruffini, a life-long resident of Johnstown, left a message on our voice mail last Thursday morning.

Before we go any further, we should inform you that Busty often gets excited when he’s talking about Johnstown. Yes, he can get emotional when he’s explaining how to prepare pasta

fagioli. But when the topic is Johnstown and its history, an element of passion enhances the discussion.

But when the typically ebullient Busty left a message on our answering system, advising us that we had screwed up the location of the bar on Bradford Ave., he spoke in an uncharacteristically solemn tone. Like when the astronauts on Apollo 13 told NASA's command headquarters in April 1970, "Houston, we have a problem."

We deserved to be ripped for failing to check out the facts diligently, and we apologize for messing up the bar's location, which we finally straightened out after Victor Taraschi rescued us.

And Busty, we missed your enthusiasm when you called last Thursday. So the next time you call to register another valid complaint, please put a little more oomph in it.

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Join Girl Scouts

Registration and Information night for new Girl Scouts will be held on Thursday September 12 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at Downingtown United Methodist Church, 751 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enter from the back of the building. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5 through 17, or in grades K-12. For more information contact www.GirlScoutsDtown@verizon.net.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 4, No.33

August 15, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

School changes dominated area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in September 1961

Consolidation of school districts, as mandated by the State Department of Public Instruction, continued. Stanley Landis of Downingtown, who was assistant superintendent of schools in Chester County, said the **new school reorganization law** would result in the 64 school districts (primarily limited to elementary schools in rural townships) in the county would be reduced to just 11 districts by 1965.

That's one of the reasons why the **West Pikeland School Board** reported that it had entered into a jointure agreement with East Brandywine, Wallace and Upper Uwchlan Townships, with hopes that West Pikeland students in grades one through six all would be in schools in the Pickering-Brandywine Jointure within two years. Members of the West Pikeland School Board included Elwood Loughlin, president; Lois Hand, vice president; Fred Cage, secretary; Nevin Myer, treasurer; and Edith Dilworth.

And members of the new **Pickering-Brandywine Jointure** were Glen Wagner, president; Edwin Kalemjian, vice president; Robert Mason, secretary; and Robert Gabriel, treasurer.

All elementary pupils from East Brandywine and Wallace Townships, plus fifth and sixth graders from Upper Uwchlan, entered the **new Brandywine-Wallace School** building in September. Walter Hessinger was the principal. Members of the school's faculty were Miriam Bond, Mary Bennetch, Marguerite Buemer, Marie Inslee, Freda Johnson, Pearl Ferguson, Hannah Harper, Margaret McClintock and Alice Souden.

Downingtown school students took home information on proposed **adult night school** classes. Courses planned over 10-weeks included typing, bookkeeping, woodwork, metalwork, beginning French, drafting, graphic arts, ceramics, fitness for women, dancing, auto repair, modern literature and basic electronics.

For the first time, East Ward, West Ward, Marshallton and Lionville Schools—all part of the Downingtown Area Joint Elementary School System—each had a **central library**.

Officers of the **Downingtown Friends School Parents Group** were Mrs. Fred Wooten, president; Mrs. William Goessel, vice president; Mrs. Warren Radcliffe, recording secretary; Mrs. Campbell Sullivan, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Paul McVickar, treasurer.

Winners of bicycles for winning their divisions in the **Back-To-School Parade**, sponsored by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce, were Cecelia Tremul, bike division, and Janis Mento, costume division.

Teachers at the **Marshallton School** included Lois Adams, Elizabeth McIntyre, Virginia Wickersham, Thelma Greenwood, Marguerite Ludwick and Henrietta Hagel.

Cynthia Myer and Marie Miller were treated by Dr. L.B. Hayes after they were injured when the **school bus**, in which they were traveling from Downingtown Junior-Senior High School to their Chester Springs homes, crashed into a tree on Route 113 after a tire blew out.

Other local news items

Officers of the Fellowship Class at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Quayle Barber, president; Paul McCombs, vice president; Mrs., Thomas Stoner, secretary; and Mrs. Glenn Echoff, treasurer. The committee responsible for the landscaping in the front of the church included Gordon Hickman, Francis Swisher and Lambert McGuckin.

Appointed committee chairmen of the **Pickering Valley Women's Club of Upper Uwchlan** were Mrs. Frank Gottier, membership; Mrs. Wilbur McQueen, sunshine; Mrs. Robert Fetters and Mrs. Kenneth Wheatley, cakes; Mrs. Jacob Dewees, welfare; Mrs. Paul McCardell, Lena Frame and Mrs. Jonathan Styer, telephone.

New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Harry Foster, Mary Jean Lillard, Linda Benson, Mrs. Owen Story, Mrs. Vernon Gay, Mrs. Jean Reigel, Patricia Shaw and Mrs. Robert Sommer. Resignations were submitted by Mrs. Joan Hamilton, Mrs. Joan Murphy and Mrs. Faye Whiteman.

Mrs. Ross Dague, Mrs. Benjamin Summers and Mrs. Edward Robinson received awards for their high scores while competing for the shuffleboard team of the **Downingtown Women of the Moose**.

Downingtown funeral director Edward Towson was appointed to the **Borough Council**, replacing Robert Plan, and Jay Lammey of Downingtown National Bank was named to the Police Pension Fund Board.

St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown was charging \$2.25 per person for full-course dinners.

Although DHS was the smallest high school in the Ches-Mont League, with a total of just 248 boys enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12, there were pre-season expectations that head coach Ray DiSerafino's 43-man **football team** would do well.

The Whippets substantiated that optimism when they **beat West Chester Henderson** 9-0 in their opener. The game was at a scoreless stalemate until the third period, when Walt Horsey tackled a Henderson back in the end zone. Then, before he succumbed to the 90-degree temperature with cramps in his legs, quarterback Jim Price put the Whippets in a scoring position when he sprinted to the 20-yard line in the fourth quarter. Gene Williams, backup signal-caller, ran for the TD that sewed up a victory.

What singer once lived in this house?

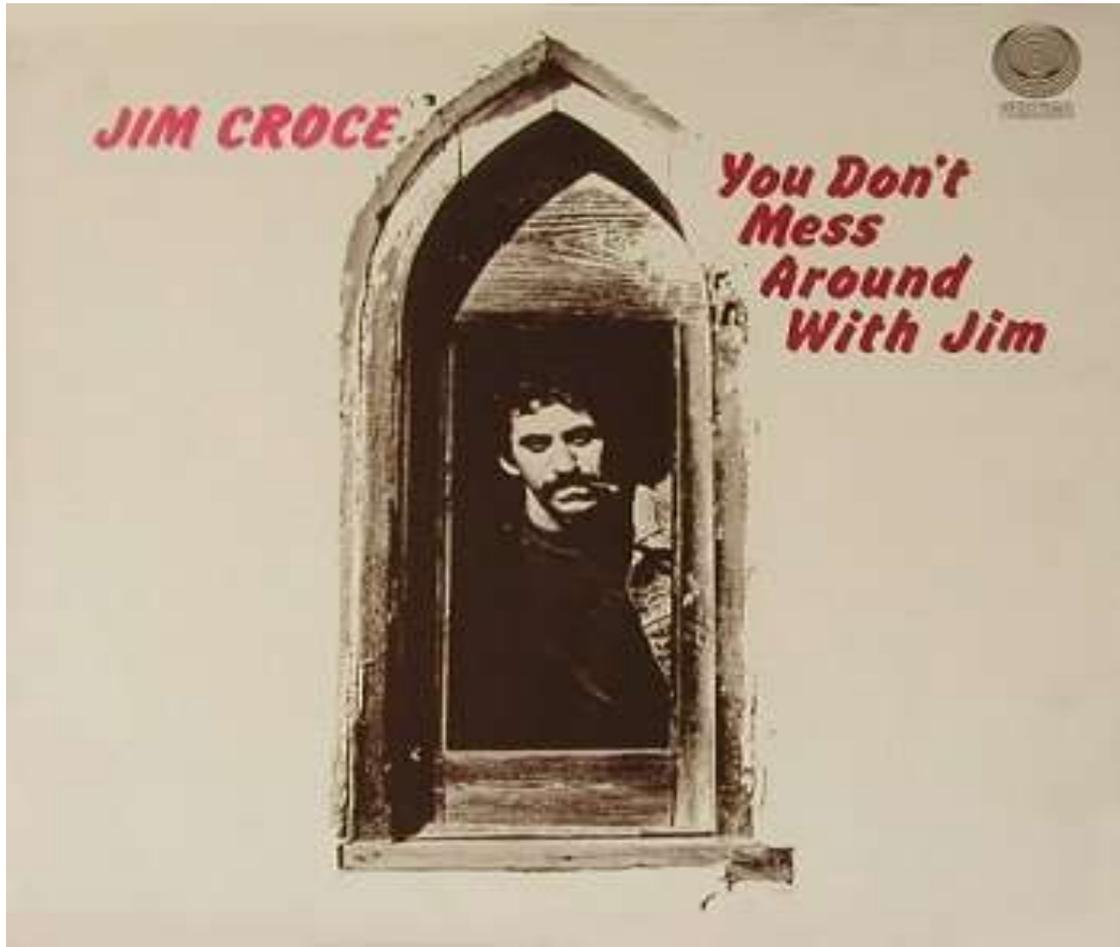


Russell Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the **What & Where Is This** photo (taken by Mike Dunn), published in last week's Hist-O-Gram, as the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Crossan, of 11 Highspire Road in the Lyndell section of East Brandywine Township. Information on Mr. Crossan's cabinetmaking business can be found at: <http://www.lwcrossan.com>.

Many of our subscribers may be interested to learn that the house had once been divided into three apartments, and one of the tenants in the early 1970s was Jim Croce and his family, when he was still a struggling songwriter and singer.

Noted below are the two articles about Croce's life in Lyndell, which were published in the September 28, 2011 and November 4, 2011 editions, respectively, of the Hist-O-Gram.

When Jim Croce lived in little Lyndell



Cover of Jim Croce's biggest selling album

The photo on the cover of one of his biggest hit albums, shows Croce peering out the gothic-style window of an outhouse on the property where he lived in an apartment in a Victorian-style mansion in Lyndell in the early 1970s.

Born in Philadelphia in 1943 and raised in Upper Darby, Croce learned to play a 12-string guitar while attending Villanova University, where he earned a degree in psychology in 1965. His early musical attempts, including coffeehouse performances and the recording of an album with his wife, Ingrid, proved less than profitable. So to save on living expenses, the Croces moved to Lyndell in 1970. While he lived in the quaint East Brandywine hamlet, Croce worked on construction jobs during the week and performed at all types of musical venues on weekends. He also wrote many of his best-known songs while living in Lyndell.

In addition to the title track, several of those hits--*Operator* and *Bad, Bad Leroy Brown*--were on the *You Don't Mess Around With Jim*, which was released in 1973.

Then, Croce's career skyrocketed. He had several other hit albums and enjoyed nationwide success as a concert and TV performer. Tragically, he died in 1973, when his charter aircraft crashed, following a concert at Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, LA.

More recollections of Jim Croce's years in Lyndell

It's hard to believe that more than 35 years have passed since Jim Croce died in a plane crash on September 20, 1973. Sadly, Croce never realized that many of the sacrifices and struggles during his Lyndell years (1970-73) did not begin to bear fruit on a national stage, until after he died. For it was in Lyndell, where Croce wrote most of the songs on three albums that went gold. Those albums, are: *You Don't Mess Around With Jim*, *Life and Times*, *I Got a Name*, and *Photographs and Memories: Greatest Hits*.

To gain a perspective on Croce's life while he and his wife, Ingrid, lived in Lyndell, in East Brandywine Township, we talked to people knowledgeable about his life in that period. Here are their recollections:

- Patience Kaltenbach DiBerardinis remembers Croce as an “upbeat, charismatic” man, with a “great sense of humor.” Patience's now-deceased parents, John and Ruth Kaltenbach, owned the three-apartment building on Highspire Road where the Croces lived in Lyndell. Now a teacher at Friendship School in the Coatesville District, she says Croce often brought his guitar to her family's nearby home and played Irish ballads. And on one visit to the Kaltenbach home, Croce brought iconic singer-song writer James Taylor along. Patience also revealed that the Croces, had a son, Adrian, when, they moved from their \$100-per-month apartment in Lyndell to another rental property in West Brandywine Township, shortly before Croce's death.
- Carole Leporeti, a tenant in one of the other two adjoining apartments at the time, recalls that she was part of a group of friends who often got together at the Croces' and were asked to pass judgment on the lyrics of many of Croce's future hits. “We'd say ‘yea’ or ‘nay.’” Although he had to work in construction during the day, he often stayed up all night writing those songs, said Leporeti, a former communications and theatre professor at Delaware County Community College at the time. Today, she's a semi-retired resident of Cushing, ME. Croce's career was just beginning to take off when he lived in Lyndell, remembers Leporeti. On weekends, for example, “he opened for Randy Newman at the Main Point in Bryn Mawr, and for Woody Allen at the Valley Forge Music Fair,” said Leporeti, who added that many soon-to-be famous musicians were constant visitors at the Croce's apartment. She also noted that both Jim and Ingrid were “great cooks.” Ingrid's kitchen talents were put to good use after her husband's death, when she opened the highly regarded Croce's Restaurant and Jazz Bar in San Diego's Gaslight District in 1985.
- Arlene Rosato, a West Chester resident who was Croce's first cousin, often visited Ingrid in Lyndell when Jim was on the road doing concerts. Arlene said Jim often played the accordion at the close-knit family's get-togethers, when he was a youngster, growing up in Upper Darby. She has every one of Jim's records, including the album that Ingrid and Jim made when they were starting their professional careers in New York City; it sold only five copies, says Arlene.
- Former Downingtown borough councilman Bob Smith says Croce often stopped in at Bob's Kwik Kook on West Lancaster in the borough, when Smith was a teenage, part-time employee. He says Croce usually spent time there talking about music with the owner, now-deceased Bob Chisolm. Smith remembers that Croce gave Chisolm an autographed copy of his first big album, *You Don't Mess Around with Jim*. Chisolm's widow gave the album to Smith, and he treasures it.

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Free ads for local non-profits

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Registration and Information night for new Girl Scouts will be held on Thursday September 12 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at Downingtown United Methodist Church, 751 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enter from the back of the building. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5 through 17, or in grades K-12. For more information contact GirlScoutsDtown@verizon.net.

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Registration info: [Online Registration](#) and [Mail-In Form](#). Race Day registration also available.

Pre-registration (posted by 8/24) \$20. Late registration (8/25 and after) \$25. Kids' race (no shirt included) \$5. Technical t-shirts guaranteed for pre-registered runners & walkers.

Packets are available at the Chester County Running Store from Tuesday, Sept. 3 to Thursday, Sept. 5 or at registration tent on Green Street after 5PM on race day.

Race numbers, chips, & T-shirts can be picked up at the Chester County Running Store, 24 South High St., West Chester.

Refreshments will be served after the race. Raffle prizes and age group prizes, donated by local supporters, will be given away during the Awards Ceremony starting by 8PM on Green Street.

Don't miss your chance to be included in the drawing for Four Hall of Fame Phillies Tickets! (All race entries are included in raffle)

All kids participating in the ¼ K & ½ K Kids' Run receive finisher medals!

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food, an art/craft show, First Responders ceremony, and live music from Nicole Ehinger and the Chester County Lawmen. For more information, visit www.dtownhpc.org.

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bill.pierce@downingtownsensors.org. No phone inquiries please; EOE.

Lions Club Golf Outing

Downingtown/Lionville Lions Clubs will have a golf outing on Monday, August 19 at the Downingtown Country Club, to raise funds for the Lords Pantry, Downingtown Area Senior Center and The Chester County Association for the Blind. For more information, contact Herb Mays (610-389-3747) or Don Greenleaf (484-354-2273).

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Vol. 4, No.34

August 22, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Local news in late September 1961

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers during the last week of September 1961.

Wilmer Yocum was honored when **Indiantown School** held its fifth annual reunion in Glenmoore. A life-long resident of Wallace Township, Yocum had been a teacher at Indiantown Elementary School and Wallace High School for many years.

And all five members of **Wallace High School's** Class of 1921 attended the reunion. They were Miriam Davis Samples, Ruth Fisher Feeney, Guy Johnson, Walker Rhodewalt and Ray Sheeler.

One of those who paid tribute to Yocum was B. Reed Henderson, retired principal of West Chester High School and a native of Glenmoore, who attended Indiantown School and Wallace High School.

After he graduated from West Chester State College in 1906, Henderson's first job was as principal of **Lionville High School** in 1906-07, then he spent 1907-08 as principal of Wallace High School, followed by a year (1908-09) as principal of the **Orphans School** in Chester Springs.

West Chester High School was renamed **Henderson High School** in 1962, in recognition of Henderson, who was a member of the high school faculty since 1913 and was principal from 1924 until 1962, when he retired. He died, at age 76, in 1964.

Speaking of West Chester High School, its **football team got burned twice** when the Rams played Downingtown in the Whippets' home opener. In addition to losing the game 9-0, the engine of the school bus transporting the Ram gridders to Downingtown caught fire near the intersection of Sugar's Bridge Road and Route 322. Luckily, a West Bradford Fire Co. happened to be passing by and doused the fire. Subsequently, another West Chester school bus was dispatched to take the team the rest of the way to Downingtown.

And the Whippets won their **second consecutive game**, when they crushed visiting Conshohocken 35-0. Junior quarterback Jim Price tossed three first-half TD passes; two of them were caught by Bill Pollock. Defensive lineman George Jefferies scooped up a Conshy fumble and lumbered for Downingtown's final touchdown.

New officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were Jonathan Styer, master; Edwin Smedley, overseer; George Taylor, lecturer; Charles Martin, steward; Edith Oberholser, chaplain; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Bessie Smedley, gatekeeper.

And the **Lyndell Grange's** new officers included: Thomas Newlin, master; Joseph Emerson, overseer; Roy Nellius, steward; Mary McCausland, lecturer; Helen Laird, chaplain; Warren Marshall, treasurer; John McCausland, secretary; and Larry Miley, gatekeeper.

Leaders of the **Downingtown/Chester Valley Community Chest** drive were Stanley Walters, Ralph Ralston, Joe Mento, Chandler Cushman, William Roberts and Gordon McGovern.

Ruth Jackson, Rev. Carl Kopenhaver and Dr. Howard Meroney were the candidates for Upper Uwchlan Township's School Board who addressed the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League**. Another candidate, Leo Hughes, was away on business.

Officers of the **West Pikeland PTA** were Mrs. John Henssler, president; Mrs. Harry Levering, vice president; Mrs. Harley Fink, treasurer; and Mrs. Solomon Fink, secretary.

Reflective of the incoming Baby Boomers and the suburbanization of the Downingtown area, **enrollment figures** for the Downingtown Junior-Senior High School were 489 students at the senior high school and 701 at the junior high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry MacNeill of Whitford loaned a **Chippendale-style armchair** to be exhibited on Chester County Day. The chair was constructed by Michael Bouvier, a 19th Century Philadelphia cabinetmaker and great-great grandfather of Jacqueline Kennedy.

Chicken Bar-Be-Ques were conducted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, and the Downingtown Optimist Club.

The **DHS Band Fathers** group sponsored afternoon and evening concerts by the U.S. Marine Band in the Junior-Senior High auditorium. Proceeds from the concerts were applied to the purchase of new uniforms.

Downingtown residents who were elected officers of the newly organized **Central Chester County Visiting Nurse Association** were Mrs. Walter Roehrs, president; Mrs. Ralph Ralston, second president; Mrs. Colyer Lewis, recording secretary; and Mrs. William Gibbs, assistant treasurer.

Officers of the new **Brandywine-Wallace School PTA** were Hans Kurash, president; Mrs. Samuel Chalfont, vice president; Mrs. Mae Swarner, secretary, and Mrs. James Feters, treasurer.

A total of 131 people signed up for one of the **Downingtown Area Adult Night School** courses. The highest number of people registered for typing, followed by sewing, bookkeeping and art. Other courses offered were basic electronics, physical fitness for women, auto repair and wood shop.

Have any info or material on the Hancock GAR Post?

We're seeking info and material connected with the Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock Post 255 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which was headquartered in Downingtown. The GAR, comprised of Civil War veterans, was comparable to today's American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Hancock GAR Post was formed after Civil War veterans from the Downingtown area were invited to a meeting held in Central Hall on West Lancaster Ave. in the borough on May 20, 1882, according to Charles Pennypacker's *History of Downingtown*, published in 1909.

(Built in 1860 for the First Presbyterian Church, which soon disbanded, Central Hall was used for traveling shows, wrestling matches, high school commencements, as well as public meetings in the late 19th Century, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*. It's the current site of Messiah Lutheran Church.)

In early June 1882, the following veterans signed on as charter members of the Post: Reese Bailey, J.T. Carpenter, Robert Walker, John Beaver, G.C.M Eicholtz, Liberty Browne, George Anderson, Abner Evans, Sylvester Makens, Elliott Browne, James Gunn, John Knauer, S.B. Evans, James McClintock, Thomas Smith, Judson Armor and Joseph Moore.

Those who joined at the Post's first regular meeting, later in June 1882, included: David Cox, James Morgan, William Mercer, Daniel Daller, James O'Neal, Elwood Lewis, Samuel Lilley and Patrick Gallagher.

The local GAR organization apparently folded in the late 1920s, when the number of surviving Civil War vets had diminished significantly.

Those who can provide information about any members of the Hancock Post are asked to send an email to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

See you at East Brandywine's Community Day

Hope to see you at the Historical Society's booth at East Brandywine's Community Day at the Community Park on Dilworth Road from 2-6 PM Saturday, August 24. Sunday, August 25 is the rain date.

Some of the features will be: a bike parade (registration starts at 1 PM), car show, balloon lift, lots of food, magic show, pony & hay rides, bingo, tow truck display, K9 unit, moonbounce, pickleball, and music by bagpipers and a "mystery guest" band.

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Chester County Food Bank.

The original part of this house was built in 1791



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house above, which was the **Where & What Is This?** photo (taken by Mike Dunn) in last week's Hist-O-Gram. The address is 1 Old Kings Highway in East Caln. According to Betty Venditta and Hilda Tarlecky, who grew up there, the house had been owned by their father and grandfather, both of whom were dairy farmers named William Hannum. They operated the Sunset View Farm dairy business, which eventually included the property now owned by the Mattioni family on the west side of Uwchlan Avenue in Downingtown. The property on Old Kings Highway was sold to Henry Smith in 1948, according to Betty Venditta.

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Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for local non-profits

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, will have its annual Chicken Bar-B-Que fundraiser from 4 PM-7 PM Saturday, August 24. The dinner includes a half chicken, baled potato, corn on the cob, apple sauce, dinner roll and dessert. You can either eat at the firehouse or take out.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 4, No.35

August 29, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news in April 1946

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers 67 years ago.

Mrs. Gilbert Smedley, education chairman, reported to members of the **Community Club of Uwchlan** that there were 92 one-room schools in Chester County. She also said most of them were poorly heated and drafty, and had an inadequate water supply and lousy toilet facilities.

The **Downingtown Moose Lodge** elected the following officers: Donald Dixon, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Fred Bowers, prelate; Walter Adams, trustee; and Francis Francella, treasurer.

Members of **Cub Pack 52**, Marshallton, who conducted a skit at a monthly meeting included Fred Frame, Harold Trimble, Robert McCue, Albert Miller, Earl Young and Jackie Clouser.

Newly-elected officers of the **Odd Fellows** in Downingtown were John Lamping, grand; Herbert Pritchard, vice grand; Herbert Kreider, warden; Allen Woodward, conductor; Gilbert Cox, chaplain; Owen Pritchard, inside guardian; and Creston Shoemaker, outside guardian.

The **Collins and Aikman** plush mill in the Bondsville section of East Brandywine was seeking young men who were willing to learn to weave.

The Downingtown Branch of the **Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** re-elected these officers: Mrs. Joseph Harvey, president; Mrs. Poyntel Canby, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Parke, second vice president; Mrs. Herbert Ash, secretary; and Mrs. Shartle Brookover, treasurer.

Joseph Sabellico announced the formation of partnership, **Sabellico Brothers Electrical Contracting**, after his brother, Marshall, returned from four years service in the Army.

New officers of the Ladies Working Guild of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Mrs. Clarence Reed, president; Mrs. James Stauffer, first vice president; Mrs. Corbin Hutchison, second vice president; Mrs. Norman Howe, secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Brown, treasurer.

The eight-team **Chester County Baseball League** was organized at a meeting held in the office of Dr. Carl Dent of Downingtown. Dent was elected president of the league.

Entertainment at a meeting of the **Marshallton PTA** was provided by the Marshallton Rythymn Boys—Houston Keenan, Tony Turpin, Artie Summers and Linwood Becker—whose singing was accompanied by Mary Wickersham.

Members of the **Downingtown Woman's Club** elected these officers: Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. John Fisher, vice president; Mrs. Joseph Harvey, second vice president; Mrs. Frank Smedley, recording secretary; Mrs. Herman Faucett, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. George Foreman, treasurer.

Proceeds from the Hopewell Fellowship Showboat Minstrels, presented in the Odd Fellows Hall in Lionville, went to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville.

Officers elected to head the Sunday School at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan, were Sterling Henry, superintendent; Horace Hause, assistant superintendent; Dorothy Frame, secretary-treasurer; Lena Frame, librarian. Mrs. Walter Garvine retired as secretary-treasurer, after serving in that position for 24 years.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown VFW** were Henry Thomas, commander; Francis Fennelly, senior vice commander; Frank Nurthern, junior vice commander; John Myer, quartermaster; Charles Snyder, chaplain; James Fennelly, post advocate; and George Hilton, adjutant.

Reactions to last week's Hist-O-Gram

Regarding the story about the Indiantown School reunion in Wallace Township, Glenmoore historian John Miller writes: "You may be surprised to learn there is still an Indiantown School Reunion held each year. This year it will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, Sept 15 at the Glen Moore United Methodist Church. I think the reunion has been held every year since it started. I can only attest to the last 25 + years. Now, most of the attendees are those who attended Indiantown Elementary."

Also retired managers of local municipalities are still sharpies when it comes to details. That's why an email from Ed Hill, East Caln Township's former manager, correctly noted that teams at West Chester Henderson High School are known as the Warriors, and not the Rams (actually West Chester University) as we wrote in last week's article about B. Reed Henderson. Also, most of the details about Henderson's past were provided by Sandy Brannan, archivist for the Wallace Township Historic Commission.

And Don Greenleaf, ex-manager of Downingtown Borough, caught us with a faulty GPS system when we claimed that the Mattioni property is on the west side of Uwchlan Avenue; it's on the east side.

This was the East Downingtown Post Office



Many of our subscribers have heard that Downingtown was the only borough in the U.S. that had two Post Offices. The photo in the old postcard above—provided by Sandra Thompson Carboni, DHS Class of 1962, who lives in Cocoa, FL—shows what the East Downingtown Post Office looked like in the early 20th century, when it was located on East Lancaster Avenue. There have been few changes to the exterior of the building.

Noted below are details, originally published in the Dec. 30, 2011 Hist-O-Gram, on why there were two Post Offices in the borough and how the situation was resolved.

The seeds of discord were planted in the late 1880s, when residents of the borough's East Ward wanted the Post Office to be re-located to their end of town. The borough's sole postal facility had been situated across from the railroad station on West Lancaster Avenue for many years because that location provided easy access to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which carried much of the mail to and from the borough.

The dispute reached a point where Congressman Smedley Darlington tried to settle the problem by convincing the U.S. Postmaster General to have a second postal facilities in March 1890, and the East Downingtown Post Office was established in a building at the intersection of

East Lancaster Avenue and Parke Alley. In the second half of the 20th Century, the building was occupied by McClure's Colonial Bake Shop and Archie Wasson's real estate business.

Fueled by their success on the postal front, the East Enders proposed, later in 1890, that the borough be split in two. The demarcation line between the two new boroughs was to be Brandywine Creek. That plan was shot down by four of the six members on borough council and the burgess (mayor) because the division of the town would have been costly as well as divisive. That decision was supported subsequently by the Court of Chester County.

In the mid-1920s, borough councilmen Allen Keim and Guyon Miller were determined to build a municipal building that would help heal the psychological split in the borough, which had lingered for more than three decades. A Borough Hall also would create a central seat of government in the growing town; the council had been meeting in the Alert fire hall since 1892.

However, a large building project was impossible to undertake at the time because the borough had recently made a commitment to construct a much needed waterworks, with a \$135,000 price tag.

The post office issue finally was resolved in 1925, when members of the Downingtown Business Men's Club, precursor of the Chamber of Commerce, established the Citizens Holding Co., which underwrote construction of the \$43,985 municipal building. The building was erected on a plot of land, purchased for \$700 by borough council, on the south side of Lancaster Avenue, on the edge of the Brandywine.

The plan also included the U.S. Post Office Department's agreement to consolidate the borough's two post offices into one space, which was rented in the new municipal building, at \$1,800 annually, for 10 years. To sweeten the deal, federal postal officials also agreed to provide delivery to all borough residences and businesses at no extra cost.

Although the new Borough Hall didn't settle all the East Ward versus West Ward tiffs in Downingtown over the coming decades, it's easy to see why Downingtown's leaders had good reason to celebrate on October 7, 1926, when the new municipal building was dedicated.

And when current borough residents hear tales about those battles over the location of the post office in the late 19th Century, they often just shake their heads and smile.

More info about Downingtown's Hancock GAR Post 255

Regarding local Civil War vets who were charter members of the Hancock GAR Post 255, which we included in last week's Host-O-Gram, Caroline Ash wrote from her home in Chicago that Jeremiah Townsley Carpenter was her great grandfather. He was one of the community leaders responsible for building the Opera House on Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown as well as being the town dentist and undertaker at the time. Caroline has a "gruesome" ivory-handled implement that Carpenter used to pull teeth.

He lived in a twin house on Washington Avenue, just east of Chestnut Street, with his wife, Eliza Laird Carpenter and their five children—Horace, Charles, Florence, Mary and Laura—Caroline's grandmother.

However, we haven't received information from Hist-O-Gram subscribers about any of the other local Civil War vets who were charter members of the Hancock Post. Besides J.T. Carpenter, they included: Reese Bailey, Robert Walker, John Beaver, G.C.M Eicholtz, Liberty Browne, George Anderson, Abner Evans, Sylvester Makens, Elliott Browne, James Gunn, John Knauer, S.B. Evans, James McClintock, Thomas Smith, Judson Armor and Joseph Moore. We hope some other subscribers will offer some info on them.

We also received an email from Jon McGuckin of Downingtown, who tells us that the Charles F Moran American Legion Post 475, which used to have a home at 338 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough, had several 1873 Springfield rifles—with “GAR 255” stamped on the stock—and other Civil War guns and swords before the home was sold. The weapons originally had been owned by the Hancock GAR Post 255. We wonder if some of them are still in the Downingtown area?

And speaking of the American Legion home in Downingtown, Bud Koth of East Brandywine, wonders what happened to the stone (about 4 feet high and 3 feet wide) with a plaque on it that was in front of the home. Bud says the plaque had the names of the World War I vets who founded the local Legion post in 1920.

Why was it called Bed Bug Row?



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the homes on Bondsville Road, East Brandywine Township, where employees of the Bondsville Mill across the street once lived. Originally, the Bondsville operation was water-powered, and was part of a series of mills built along Beaver Creek. It was named for Abraham Bond, who built the mill, which operated for 110 years. It produced everything from woolens in 1841 to linings for U.S. Air Force jackets during World War II. It was known locally as the “Plush Mill” because upholstery fabric was manufactured there for the automobile industry. On the mill site is a War Memorial plaque, erected in 1946, dedicated to the employees of Collins and Aikman Corp. who served in the military during World War II. Collins and Aikman was the last firm to occupy the mill, before it was closed in 1954, and 135 employees lost their jobs. Bruton has a unique connection to the Bondsville Mill, because cleaning up the War Memorial there was his Eagle Scout project in the early 1990's.

Also, we're mystified about why so many responders called the workers' houses “Bed Bug Row.”

Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon

Although it happens on Labor Day weekend, we're going to have our leisurely clipping and pasting session from 1-4 PM on Sunday at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

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

Free ads for local non-profits

Join Girl Scouts (See corrected email address)

Registration and Information night for new Girl Scouts will be held on Thursday September 12 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at Downingtown United Methodist Church, 751 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enter from the back of the building. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5 through 17, or in grades K-12. For more information contact GirlScoutsDtwn@verizon.net.

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Registration info: [Online Registration](#) and [Mail-In Form](#). Race Day registration also available. Pre-registration (posted by 8/24) \$20. Late registration (8/25 and after) \$25. Kids' race (no shirt included) \$5. Technical t-shirts guaranteed for pre-registered runners & walkers.

Packets are available at the Chester County Running Store from Tuesday, Sept. 3 to Thursday, Sept. 5 or at registration tent on Green Street after 5PM on race day.

Race numbers, chips, & T-shirts can be picked up at the Chester County Running Store, 24 South High St., West Chester.

Refreshments will be served after the race. Raffle prizes and age group prizes, donated by local supporters, will be given away during the Awards Ceremony starting by 8PM on Green Street. Don't miss your chance to be included in the drawing for Four Hall of Fame Phillies Tickets! (All race entries are included in raffle)

All kids participating in the ¼ K & ½ K Kids' Run receive finisher medals!

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bill.pierce@downingtownseniors.org. No phone inquiries please; EOE.

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

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Vol. 4, No.36

September 5, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

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

Judson Armor was a carriage builder and civic leader

This is another article in a series of stories about local residents who were charter members of the Gen. Winfield Hancock Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post 255, headquartered in Downingtown. The GAR was comprised of veterans of the Civil War. The article was researched and written by Downingtown's Jim Sundman, who has done extensive research on the Civil War.

Judson Armor was born in Laughlintown, Westmoreland County, PA in April 1844. In August 1861, at age 17 he joined Co. E of the 105th Pennsylvania Infantry as a private. During the Civil War, he saw action on the Virginia peninsula, at Second Manassas, and at Fredericksburg where he was wounded in the side by a Confederate artillery shell. He recovered over the following months, but was discharged due to his wounds in March 1863. He married Amanda Compton in Philadelphia in 1869 and they eventually settled in Downingtown in 1876.

Before the war Armor apprenticed as a carriage trimmer and painter, and used those skills to set up his own carriage manufacturing business, the Downingtown Carriage Bazaar, on East Lancaster Avenue in 1880. The business was located directly behind the group of buildings where Georgio's Restaurant and Downingtown Country Gifts are currently located.

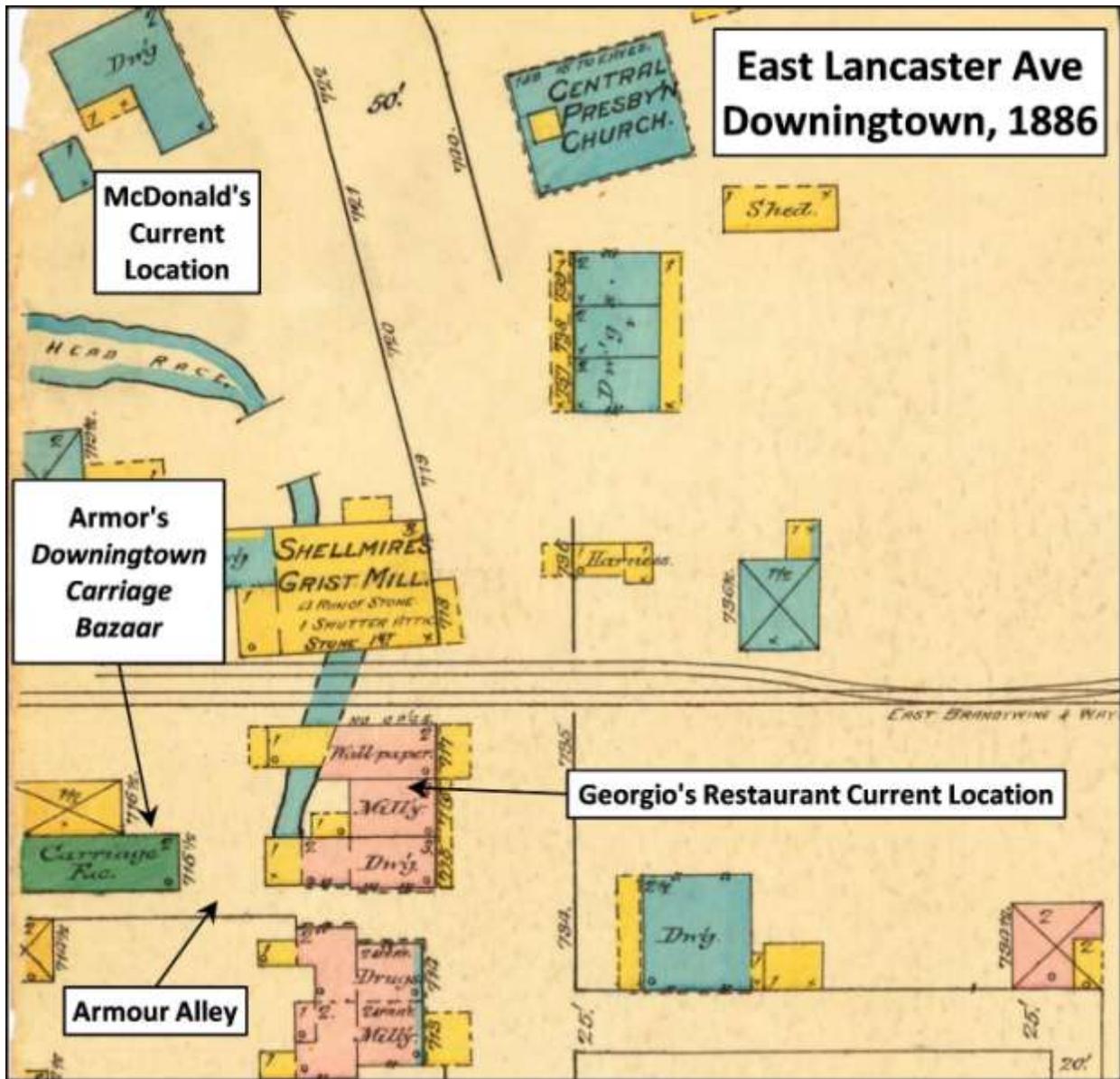
In some historical sources, his last name was spelled Armour. That's why the 1886 map of East Downingtown below shows that *Armour Alley* was a connector between East Lancaster Avenue and Mill Alley. Armour Alley is no longer a street; it was replaced by the current *Armor Alley Walkway*, which was part of the 1970s Downing Center Urban Renewal project.

In addition to being a prominent businessman in the Borough for many years, Armor also was president of the Downingtown Beneficial Society, commander of the Hancock GAR post, a Sunday school superintendent at the Presbyterian Church, and a 33rd degree Mason at the Williamson Lodge in Downingtown. He died at age 80 in 1924 and is buried in Northwood Cemetery.



Downingtowntown Carriage Bazaar.

JUDSON ARMOR, Proprietor,
Manufacturer and Dealer in
CARRIAGES
— AND —
WAGONS,
Carriages, Buggies, Phaetons, Spring
and Farm Wagons. A great variety
constantly on Hand for Sale or Ex-
change.
Warerooms Right at Shelmire's Station
EAST DOWNINGTOWN,
Painting and Repairing in all its Branches Promptly Attended to. All Work Warranted



This map above shows where Armor’s carriage business was located in 1886 and where Armour Alley, which was a connection between East Lancaster Ave. and Mill Alley, had been until it was closed as part of the Downing Center Urban Renewal project in the 1970s. Now the Armor Alley Walkway is located next to the Downingtown Country Gifts store, 147 E. Lancaster Ave.

Hot local news in September 1977

The following items were originally published 36 years ago in the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown weekly.

DHS students scored higher than the national average on their **SAT verbal tests** in seven of the last ten years, And their math SAT scores were above the national average in the last three years (1974-1976) of the past ten years.

East Caln was not eligible to receive a **\$10,000 federal grant**, to be used to build a parking lot on Garris Road, because the township's per capita income was too high.

In a series of stories about **Buffalo Bill Cody's** local connections, it was noted that Downingtown's Charles and Carrie Trego founded the town of Cody, WY, as requested by Buffalo Bill. And Charlie Trego, who was the advance man for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show performances all over the world, had posed for Frederic Remington's life-sized bronze statue, entitled *The Cowboy*, on Kelly Drive in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1343 Ridgeview Circle, West Bradford, \$56,100; 6 Highland Court, East Brandywine, \$44,000; 19 Webb Road, East Caln, \$73,567; 219 Concord Ave., Uwchlan, \$59,000; 13 Christine Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$67,086; 4 Court Drive, Downingtown, \$41,500.

Members of **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, attended the dedication of the new parish house, across the street from the church. After extensive renovations were done on the stone building at 41 West Lancaster Ave., the house included four classrooms, an adult lounge and meeting room, a pastor's study and a church office.

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, reported that 58 people were added to the **Downingtown School District's** professional staff, including 53 teachers. Only 21 new teachers had been hired for the previous school year. And the district's enrollment for 1977-78 was 7,044, a decline of 37 students compared to the previous school year.

Members of the parsonage building committee at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Ray Paul, Charles Ax, Wayne Carmichael, George Dowlin, Eleanor Krapf, Wenona Paul, Ted Rissel, Peter Smith, Mary Warren and Teddi Wright.

St. Joseph Catholic Church celebrated its 125th anniversary. Municipal officials and clergy from Downingtown area churches were invited to a special Mass, followed by an ox roast.

Priorities for the **expansion of DHS**, projected to be done in time for the 1979-80 school year, included an addition of eight classrooms above the administrative suite of the high school and a new gymnasium which could accommodate 2,000 spectators.

Local students attending **Dickinson College** were Thomas Beck, William Clifton, Jon Greenleaf, George Phillips, Cynthia Van Roden and Jeffrey Williams.

The **Downingtown Park Apartments**, at 335 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough, was hit by a third suspicious fire in less than three years. All three fires started in a basement storage area.

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1817 house is at 205 Santillo Way in Uwchlan



Seth Boer is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as the one at 205 Santillo Way in Uwchlan Township. The original part of the structure was built by Joseph Downing in 1817 as a tenant house on his 200-acre farm. An addition and porches were built during the Civil War. When Lewis Brandolini was planning to build the Ashbridge development on the farm property in the 1980s, he wanted to raze the house. However, Mrs. Cathryn Walton, who had owned the site since the 1940s, refused to sell the property to Brandolini. Instead, Walton sold it in 1980 to Paul and Diane Houser, who spiffed up the place and still live there.

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Free ads for local non-profits

Free Community Concerts

The Brandywine Area Community Choir, directed by Steve McFalls, will present two free concerts this fall. The first will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 460 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 7 PM. The second will be at East Brandywine Baptist Church, 999 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown, on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 7 PM.

The concerts are titled "An Evening with Gaither Gospel and a Stirring Salute to Our Patriots." The gospel portion will include Gaither numbers and "spirited" spiritual music. The men's chorus will present several patriotic numbers, including the emotionally moving *Count the Costs* and a newly arranged version of our *National Anthem*. The entire chorus will finish the program with a rousing rendition of the Service Songs from each branch of our military, which will honor active-duty as well as military veterans in the audience. The concert will end with the powerful Wilhousky arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Combining patriotic and spiritual passion, this choir of 50+ members, representing over a dozen different churches, will entertain and inspire the audience with this evening of music. The St. Joseph's concert will benefit The Travis Manion Foundation, which supports our military and veterans. The East Brandywine concert will benefit One Run Together, a charity founded to assist families of cancer patients. Freewill offerings will be accepted in support of these charities at each concert.

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



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 4, No.37

September 12, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Hot news in the Downingtown area in October 1977

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

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, reported that 37 percent (608) of DHS students participated in at least one sport. That's a 9 percent increase, compared to the previous (1976-77) school year.

Chairpersons for Messiah Lutheran Church's fall bazaar were Rhoda Robertson, Lillian Friedline, Barbara Dillman, Brenda McDade, Doris Zelina, Betty Petrie, Wanda Snyder and Karen Shirk.

Faculty members of the Sunday School at Central Presbyterian Church were Evelyn Hamilton, Harry Rauch, Ralph Belknap, Janet Stockoff, Mary Otto, Margie Stoudt, Karen Guglielmo, Joyce Brink, Judy Bullock, Edna Ross, Ginny Weikel, John Holloway, and Frank and Pat Morrison.

New officers of the Downingtown Area Educational Secretaries Association were Anita Ayoub, president; Phyllis Mattson, vice president; Shirley Nelms, secretary; and Barbara Mento, treasurer.

Elected as officers of the St. Joseph's Home and School Association were Dale Donaldson, president; Dennis McBride, vice president; Madelyne Carlin, recording secretary; Leah Rivera, corresponding secretary; and Marge Jacobson, treasurer.

Lionville Junior High won its first soccer match, beating Upper Merion 4-0. Vince Forgione had two goals, and Joe Woodward and Kurt Kessler each had one. Also, Coach Steve Curtis attributed the Downingtown Junior High's 2-1 victory over Great Valley in the Lancers' first match win to the play of Dale Russel, Larry Protivnak, David Hammer, David Zynn and Robbie Van Lew.

DHS seniors who achieved Commended status in the National Merit Scholarship program were John Dagher, Arthur Griffith, Michael Ehr Gott, Edward Zink, Mike Whiteman, Millard Ryan and Steve Waldron.

Wallace Township celebrated its 125th birthday by publishing an 116-page book, noting highlight's of the township's past. Local artists whose maps and illustrations were in the book include Sandra Brannan, Jane Davidson, Joyce and Sabrina Vourvoulias, Kathleen Stevens, Jennifer and Elizabeth Antrim, John Shrader, Edward D'Alessandro, Elsie Sinex, Vivian Piersol, Doris Boothroyd, Mary Kelly, Henry McNeill, William Brewster, Toni Wright, Larry Taylor and Sally Caspar.

By a 5-4 vote, the Downingtown Area School Board shot down a proposal to ban smoking by employees in school district facilities.

Karen Hall was elected Queen, and Downingtown Postmaster Jack Helm was the Honored Guest at the DHS Homecoming. Better yet, the Whippets beat Spring-Ford to even their record to 3-3. Members of the Homecoming court were Anita Kauffman, Lori Novak, Kathy Ursini, Valerie Hadfield, Debbie Gaffney, Susan Kallmeyer, Kathy Stelzer, Sharon Stellabott and Luann Creamer.

Recent property transfers included: 331 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$34,700; 28 Winding Way, East Caln, \$82,000; 1403 Carriage Lane, West Bradford, \$51,300; 401 Rennard Drive, Uwchlan, \$60,500; 584 Corner Ketch Road, East Brandywine, \$56,900.

Restaurant Raffle winner will receive 12 dinners worth \$250 each

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is conducting a Restaurant Raffle. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and the lucky winner will receive vouchers for 12 dinners, each with a value of \$250 and a total value of \$3,000, to be spent at the participating restaurants. They include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Dilworthtown Inn, Duling-Kurtz, Eagle Tavern, Four Dogs Tavern, General Warren Inn, Grill at Fore, Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, Ship Inn, Thorndale Inn, and Yellow Springs Inn.

Names of the winners will be drawn at a party for all ticket purchasers, which will begin at 4 PM Sunday, Oct. 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant. And consolation prizes—including a \$500 Wine Sampler, and two Bed

& Breakfast stays, one night each for two—will be awarded at the drawing party, where light refreshments will be served.

Tickets, which cost \$75 each, can be purchased by calling: the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Darryl Ferron, president, 610-679-2425; or Carol Grigson, treasurer/archivist, 610-269-5413. You also can buy tickets by coming to Ashbridge House, between 1 PM and 4 PM on Sundays.

If you need more information, send an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help maintain Ashbridge House, and preserve the historical materials, photos and artifacts in our archival collection.

Capt. Eicholtz was a leader of GAR Post and Alert Fire Co.

This article is part of a continuing series about local Civil War veterans who were charter members of the Hancock GAR Post 255, based in Downingtown.

Captain George C. M. Eicholtz was the Hancock Post's first commander. His brother, James, also served with the Union during the Civil War. And during the mid-19th Century, his father, Henry, owned the Pennsylvania House Hotel on West Lancaster Avenue.

Before he joined the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteers as a private in 1861, he was an agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad. By 1862, he had been promoted to Captain, the same year he suffered wounds in two battles. The wound he sustained in his ankle at Fredericksburg, VA, was so severe, he was forced to resign his commission, and he was granted a disability pension.

Eicholtz returned to Chester County and was elected Register of Wills in 1863. During the post-Civil War period, he also was employed by the U.S. Appraisers Office in the U.S. Customs agency in Philadelphia, until 1868, when he became the proprietor of the drug store at 207 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Eicholtz sold the business to Howard Sides in 1878, and Sides sold the pharmacy to Raymond Greenleaf in 1929. Greenleaf operated the business until 1964, according to his son, Don Greenleaf.

And in 1873, Eicholtz built "one of the more impressive and elegant mansions in town for his two sisters and himself," near the intersection of Highland and Stuart Avenues in the borough, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*.

He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, and was on the original board of directors of the Downingtown Building and Loan Association, established in 1874.

Eicholtz was the third President of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. No. 1, from 1890 to 1898, according to Jeff Stevens, chairman of the Fire Company's historical committee. The company was founded in 1887. His family presented a painting (see portrait below) of Eicholtz to the fire company. During Eicholtz's tenure, the Alerts built their first firehouse in 1891, at 17 Downing Ave. (now an apartment house). Before then, their hand-drawn ladder truck and buckets had been housed at the Excelsior Paint Store on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough.

And, in 1892, they purchased a horse-drawn Silsby steam fire engine, which members of the current Downingtown Fire Department pull by hand in the Downingtown Christmas Parade.

Eicholtz died in 1899, after he was mortally injured in a train crash near Exeter, PA, in Berks County. He is buried at The Woodlands cemetery in Philadelphia.

You can access an extensive history of the Alert Fire Co. by clicking on:

<http://alertfire.org/history.php>.



This painting of Capt. Eicholtz, donated by his family, hangs in the Alert Fire Hall.

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

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We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

It's at 400 Washington Ave., Downingtown



Gregg Nelms is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the above photo (taken by Mike Dunn) in last week's Hist-O-Gram as the house at the southeastern corner of Washington Avenue and Chestnut Street in Downingtown. It had been the early 20th Century residence of the Jeremish T. Carpenter family. Carpenter operated a furniture and casket making business on Brandywine Avenue, near the intersection of Lancaster Avenue. He was one of the charter member of the Hancock GAR Post in Downingtown. And according to Stan Landis, the Sheehy sisters—Anna, Mary and Lucy—lived there in the mid-20th Century.

The bed bugs were in Fisherville, not Bondsville

Trying to determine where “Bed Bug Row” was located has kept us up at night. The mystery was created when several Hist-O-Gram readers claimed that the workers' houses in the Bondsville area, pictured in the **Where and What Is This** photo in the August 22 edition, were known as “Bed Bug Row.”

Well, Lois Demchak, Carole Davis Turner and Phyllis Deets have solved the mystery. All of them explained to us that the mill workers' housing in Fisherville was the location of "Bed Bug Row" and not in Bondsville.

In fact, a small, oval sign on the first house in the row of mill workers' residences in Fisherville notes that the neighborhood was known as "Bed Bug Row."

Since we're no longer bugged by that mystery, we all can sleep at night.

Classified Advertisements

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Free ads for local non-profits

5K Orchard Mud Run

The second annual "Hard to the Core" 5K Orchard Mud Run will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 at Weaver's Orchard, 40 Fruit Lane, Morgantown. The race is sponsored by OneRunTogether, a non-profit organization that helps cancer patients financially. Participants will run through an orchard while traveling over obstacles such as water and mud holes, hay bales and more. Registration for the 5K and one-mile walk will be from 7AM to 8:20 AM, The 5K will begin at 8:30 AM, followed by the walk at 9 AM.

Registration fees on the day of the race are: \$55 for adults (13+) and \$25 for kids (8-12) in the 5K, and \$5 for the one-mile walk. Children under 7 may participate in either event free.

Participants will receive a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. Breakfast will be available for non-participants for a fee.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place male and female finishers in the 5K. There also will be prizes for males and females in each of these age brackets: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over. There will be an awards ceremony at 9:30 AM. Runners in the 5K will receive T-shirts.

OneRunTogether was founded by Vern Murphy, who lost his wife to cancer. The organization's mission is to host races and other fundraisers to benefit cancer patients in need.

For more info about OneRunTogether, check out: <http://www.oneruntogether.org/races/>

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The Brandywine Area Community Choir, directed by Steve McFalls, will present two free concerts this fall. The first will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 460 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 7 PM. the second will be at East Brandywine Baptist Church, 999 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown, on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 7 PM.

The concerts are titled "An Evening with Gaither Gospel and a Stirring Salute to Our Patriots."

The gospel portion will include Gaither numbers and "spirited" spiritual music. The men's chorus will present several patriotic numbers, including the emotionally moving *Count the Costs* and a newly arranged version of our *National Anthem*. The entire chorus will finish the program with a

rousing rendition of the Service Songs from each branch of our military, which will honor active-duty as well as military veterans in the audience. The concert will end with the powerful Willhousky arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Combining patriotic and spiritual passion, this choir of 50+ members, representing over a dozen different churches, will entertain and inspire the audience with this evening of music. The St. Joseph's concert will benefit The Travis Manion Foundation, which supports our military and veterans. The East Brandywine concert will benefit One Run Together, a charity founded to assist families of cancer patients. Freewill offerings will be accepted in support of these charities at each concert.

Girl Scout sign-up ends Sept. 12

Registration and Information night for new Girl Scouts will be held on Thursday September 12 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at Downingtown United Methodist Church, 751 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enter from the back of the building. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5 through 17, or in grades K-12. For more information contact GirlScoutsDtown@verizon.net.

Downingtown Day

Downingtown Historical & Parks Commission will host the 2nd annual Downingtown Day at Kerr Park on Saturday, September 14 from 9 AM to 6 PM. This free event will feature entertainment, food, an art/craft show, First Responders ceremony, and live music from Nicole Ehinger and the Chester County Lawmen. For more information, visit www.dtownhpc.org.

Health & Wellness Coordinator

Needed for a busy, non-profit senior adult activity center in Downingtown. Ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter who enjoys working independently and as a member of a team, and will have a passion for working with the elderly. Candidate will ideally hold certification to instruct group exercise, though training can be provided. Position is part-time (28 hours per week). Position requires round-trip travel to and from Elverson, twice weekly; transportation is required. Salary range is \$12.54 - \$15.35 per hour; commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should submit their resume and salary requirements via email to:

bill.pierce@downingtownsensors.org. No phone inquiries please; EOE.

Downingtown Farmers Market

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

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

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

Banquet Room for Rent

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Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help maintain Ashbridge House, and preserve the historical materials, photos and artifacts in our archival collection.

Hot local news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items, originally published in local newspapers in the first two weeks of October 1961

Women who modeled in the **Village League of the Uwchlans** fashion show were Mrs. Donald Corneal, Mrs. William Isinger, Mrs. Walter Mitchell, Mrs. Paul Otter, Mrs. William Meredith, Mrs. Graef Miller and Mrs. Glenn Plank.

Committee chairmen of the **West Pikeland School PTA** included Mrs. Grover Hallman, ways and means; Mrs. Walter Uhler, program; Mrs. Erik Kern, hospitality; Mrs. Robert Smedley, music; Mrs. George Sload, publicity; and Mrs. William Knox, historian.

Those who received awards for perfect attendance at **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Sunday School included Janet and Robert McClure, Earl Edwards, Janet Bickings, fifth year; Nancy Busby, sixth year; Joan Yarnall and Price Stevenson, seventh year; Judy Yarnall, Jay Stevenson and William James, eighth year; Steven Hendry and Susan James, tenth year; and Mrs. Maggie Mercer, twenty-sixth year.

Re-elected as officers of the Downingtown Branch of the **American Red Cross** were Mrs. Fred Pollock, chairman; Mrs. Theodore Noll, vice chairman; Mrs. William Keen, secretary; and Mrs. W.I. Pollock, treasurer. Elected as directors were Mrs. Joan Collins, Mrs. William Hall, Mrs. Gilbert Hamm, Mrs. Lambert McGuckin, Mrs. William Bender, Raymond Lemmon and Doris Amos.

Although Downingtown's Jim Bob Price intercepted a Pottstown pass in the end zone and raced for a 102-yard TD, the **Whippets lost** 23-7. And Susan Whittaker and Carol Shisler scored goals, as the **DHS field hockey team** tied Boyertown 2-2.

Among those promoted in the Sunday School at **Glenmoore Methodist Church** were: To Intermediate Boys—Bobby Ferguson, Ronald Hohl, Freddie Swavely, Michael Hamm and Roger Munson. And to Intermediate Girls—Kathy Ayers, Sheila Massimini, Mary Ann Moore, Mary Jane Pizii and Bettie Saathoff.

Officers elected by members of the **Lady of Chester Valley Rebekah Lodge**, Lionville, were Carrie Underwood, noble grand; Anna Wilson, vice grand; Anita Wilson, recording secretary; Elizabeth Smedley, financial secretary; Grace Benner, treasurer, and Edna Windle, trustee.

Members of the Student Council at **Downingtown Junior High School** were William Shirley, president; Linda Pyle, vice president; Janet Seeds, secretary; and Deborah Dunn, treasurer. And National Honor Society officers were Cheryl Krapf, president; Donna Hilton, vice president; Sandra Irwin, secretary; and Martha Menas, treasurer.

New members of the **Ladies of St. Joseph Church** included Mary Ann Malin, Sue Golden, Maria Serrino, Marie DiOttavio and Mary Jane Esworthy.

Republican candidates for positions in Downingtown were Creston Shoemaker, mayor; George Aumiller, tax collector; Armand Tarasachi, John Rogers and W.P. Canby, borough council; Robert Hadfield and Thomas Brookover, school directors; Benjamin Valocchi, auditor; and Joseph Newlin and Warren Buchanan, constable.

William Wilmot, captain, Minquas Fire Co.; Earl Stern, Alert Fire Co. and former chief of the Downingtown Fire Department; and Richard Keers, Alert Fire Co. were recognized by members of the Downingtown Rotary Club as **1961 Outstanding Firemen**.

New leaders of the **Lionville PTA** were Thomas Greenleaf, president; Ann Just, vice president; Ann Stimson, secretary; Riley Gilbert, treasurer; Lynn Sommer, publicity and communications; Betty Panetti, home room mothers; Myrtle Butterman, hospitality; and Mary Hartsell, membership.

George Beechwood, Charles Platt, Harley Fink, Sam Acker and Beverly Wheat were appointed to the **West Pikeland planning commission**.

Downingtown pupils participated in 1953 May Festival

According to a copy of a program donated by Ron Meacham, we learned that a May Festival was conducted in 1953 by students in the Downingtown School System. The program was offered in the football stadium 60 years ago by pupils at West Ward and East Ward Elementary Schools and the Junior-Senior High School

The highlight of the evening was the crowning of May Queen, Joan Courtless. Jo Ann Forbes was her Maid of Honor. Members of the Queen's Court, comprised of representatives from every school and grade, were: Cora Smedley, Honey Lou McNelly, Audrey Samworth, Patty Sciaretta, Gail Lammey, Mary Ann Clayton, Alice Smedley, Ruth Hall, Andrea Reeves, Mary Ann Hamilton, Betty D'Attilio, Iva Darlington, Rosalyn Berstler, Nancy Lee, Sonia Raysor, Mary Louise Parker, Bonita Plank, JoAnn Antonelli, Laura Ulissi, Linda Lou Lynn, Carol DiAntonio, Priscilla Brown and Kathleen Beatty.

Kindergartners Judy Mento and Bonita Capriotti were the flower girls, and William Trindle and Stephen Mascherino were the Queen's train bearers. Also, Stephen Meacham was the crown bearer.

The Festival's program also included the following activities: a brief concert by the DHS band, directed by Fred Pflieger; a parade and drill by the band comprised of musicians from the two elementary schools, directed by Joseph Poltrone; members of the DHS track meet competing

against each other in the pole vault, low hurdles and mile relay events, directed by Ray DiSerafino; a tumbling exhibit by Junior High students, conducted by Don Heilman; calisthenics done by seventh graders, led by Robert Miller and directed by Donald White; a Singing Game by first, second and third graders from the elementary schools; a Square Dance by fourth, fifth and sixth graders from the elementary schools, directed by Jason Dreibelbis; Rope Jumping by DHS students; the Charleston danced by ninth grade girls; and May Pole Dances by ninth and seventh graders.

Other faculty members involved and their responsibilities included: Louise Brink Remetz, May Queen and her court; Fred Lilley, announcer; Harold Klinger, Rhoda Yost, Marion Dawson, and Elmer Hemberger, properties; May Pole dances, Charleston dances and Rope Jumping, Barbara Coates.

(Editor's Note: Can someone tell us when the festival was begun, and when and/or why the School District stopped offering the program?)

The ruins of Martin's Tavern in Marshallton



John Carbo is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the ruins of the two-story Martin's Tavern in Marshallton. It also was known as the Centre House during the pre-Revolutionary War era, according to Catherine Quillman's *Between the Brandywines: A History of West Bradford*. The Centre House was probably built as a residence in 1750, and the tavern was added by Joseph Martin in 1764. According to an unsubstantiated legend, wrote Quillman in her book, British soldiers seized several local farmers rumored to be Tories. "A more plausible account," wrote Quillman, "has two local residents and patriots, Thomas "Squire" Cheyney and Colonel John Hannum, staying at the inn the night before the battle."

After 1874, wrote Quillman, the Centre House was the site of a restaurant, a general store, a feed and flour supply business, a boarding house and a soda fountain. And by the 20th Century,

the structure had evolved into a five-story apartment building. In recent years, the deteriorated structure had to be demolished, and the ruins were repointed and restored to an accurate historic footprint of the original building by The Friends of Martin's Tavern, a non-profit organization.

Jack McCombs, who now lives on North Carolina's Outer Banks, recalls that he lived across the street from the Center House as a boy in the early 1950s. Back then, wrote Jack, an old man lived in one of the units in the "decrepit" apartment house, and he apparently had no friends. Jack's mother used to make meals and carry them over to the old fellow's apartment, where she'd spend some time chatting with him.

"I think, now that I'm older and hopefully wiser," adds Jack, "the conversation was important for his spirit, for his soul; which was as important as the meals she prepared for him. It's also important for me to recall that we were not well off then. In fact we were poor. The only way that old man could repay my mother for her kindness was by making and giving her small rugs made of scrap material."

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Programs at the Downingtown Library

Pre-registration is required for the three programs listed below, which will be offered at the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. You can sign up by accessing <http://www.downintownlibrary.org/> or by calling 610-269-2741.

Tuesday, Oct 1, **Backyard Beekeeping** - Beekeepers Pat Doyle and Debra Pieri will walk program attendees through the adventures of backyard beekeeping. Program will include discussion, equipment, and a live observation hive. The program will be from 6-7:30 PM.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, **Making Sense of Medicare** - Presenter, Ellen Good, MSW, will speak about how Medicare works, managing your plan, cost issues, and how to maximize coverage. Program includes question/answer session. Program will be from 6:30-7:30pm.

Thursday, Oct. 10, **DAPI Ghost Report** - The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators' program will include a combination of photos, video, and electronic voice phenomenon of investigations held in the Downingtown area and at the library. The program will be from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Operation Military Christmas Stocking

Help send holiday spirit to our troops in Afghanistan. Suggested pocket-sized items to be dropped off on weekdays between 9 AM and 4 PM at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike or on Saturdays and Sundays at the Village Hardware, Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, BEFORE Friday, Oct. 11: games, chapstick, candy, and small game books (Sudoku, crosswords), nail clippers, Q-Tips, hand sanitizer, baby wipes in individual packs, individual dry soups, packets of individual-size hot and cold powdered drinks, nuts, Trail Mix, and trial-size men's deodorant, shampoo and body wash. No glass or aerosol items can be shipped. For more info, call the township at 610-269-8230.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.39

September 26, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Restaurant Raffle winner will receive 12 dinners worth \$250 each

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is conducting a Restaurant Raffle. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and the lucky winner will receive vouchers for 12 dinners. Each voucher, which are transferrable, has a value of \$250 and a total value of \$3,000, to be spent at the participating restaurants. They include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Dilworthtown Inn, Duling-Kurtz, Eagle Tavern, Four Dogs Tavern, General Warren Inn, Grill at Fore, Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, Ship Inn, Thorndale Inn, and Yellow Springs Inn. In most cases, the vouchers aren't useable on weekends and don't cover alcoholic beverages.

Names of the winners will be drawn at a party for all ticket purchasers, which will begin at 4 PM Sunday, Oct. 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant. And consolation prizes—including a \$500 Wine Sampler, and two Bed & Breakfast stays, one night each for two—will be awarded at the drawing party, where light refreshments will be served.

Tickets, which cost \$75 each, can be purchased by calling: the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Darryl Ferron, president, 610-679-2425; or Carol Grigson, treasurer/archivist, 610-269-5413. You also can buy tickets by coming to Ashbridge House, between 1 PM and 4 PM on Sundays. Tickets are tax-deductible since the Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

If you need more information, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help maintain Ashbridge House, and preserve the historical materials, photos and artifacts in our archival collection.

More local news in October 1961

Noted below are news items, originally published in local newspapers in the latter two weeks of October 1961

Gordy Flowers, Jim Bob Price, Ken Mills, Bill Flowers, Gene Williams and Bob Luminella scored touchdowns, as the **DHS football team** clobbered O.J. Roberts 52-26.

And Nancy Gindin, Paula Tweed and Carol Shisler scored goals as the **Whippet field hockey** squad beat Phoenixville 3-0.

Committee chairs for the fashion show, conducted by the **St. Anthony's Lodge Auxiliary**, were Mrs. Joseph Massucci, prizes; Mrs. Christopher Newton, decorations; Mrs. Ore Marino, entertainment; Mrs. Joseph Pannicelli, publicity; Mrs. Andrew DiAntonio, programs; Mrs. Edward DiLuigi, refreshments; and Mrs. Edward Tedeschi, tickets. Molly Taraschi assisted with decorations, and her daughter, Lucy, helped with the programs. Entertainment was provided by Jimmy Scamuffa on the accordion, and Anne Marie Yannascoli who played the piano and sang. Pianist Mrs. Frank Helm played background music during the fashion show.

Chef Pierre Carlier was preparing French cuisine for diners at **Downingtown's Swan Hotel.**, and family-style dinners were being served every Sunday.

DHS seniors who received commendation letters for their achievement in the **National Merit Scholarship** test were Joanna Pope, Neil Shields and Stephen Wilson. Also, Downingtown Junior High students William Davis and Edward Hildebeitel won awards for their mahogany bowls in the woodworking division of **American Industrial Arts Association** competition. Davis's bowl was chosen to represent Pennsylvania in an exhibit in Washington, DC.

Staff members of *The Scribe*, published by **Downingtown Junior High students**, included Kris Yeaworth, editor; Peggy Woodland, features editor; Donald Husted, sports editor; Fred Martin and Ethan Berry, art; Linda Pyle, business manager and Janet Strawsnyder, typist.

Possible locations of the planned elementary school in the **Upper Uwchlan-West Pikeland** area were: at the intersection of Route 401 and Byers Road, or on the Butler estate, also on Byers Road, behind the Windsor School.

Girl Scout Troop 180, Downingtown, had an overnight camp-out at Icedale. Girls who participated were Jennifer Bruton, Marvene Dennis, Elaine Geiger, Carol Reutter, Jean Shafran, Kathy Spence, Donna Usher, Judy Williams, Linda Walker, Carole Miller, Glenda Buckwalter, Dianne Forrest, Anna Smith and Ruth Weaver.

The **Home and School Association** of Downingtown Elementary Schools decided to give a lectern to the new Beaver Creek School and give two trees in memory of the late John Carmichael, a school bus driver who died while en route to pick up students.

Glenmoore listed on National Register as Historic District

Citizens of Wallace Township, responsible for the listing of the village of Glenmoore as a Historic District on the National Register, were honored at a program in Wagenseller Park on Saturday, September 21.

The village was designated as significant under Criterion C for architecture, according to Wise Preservation Planning LLC, Chester Springs, which was hired by the township to prepare the application for Historic District status.

The Glenmoore Historic District is located near the center of Wallace Township. It comprises the historic heart of the village, including 56 sites along Creek, Fairview, and Indiantown Roads. Its commercial core is centered at the intersection of Creek and Fairview Roads. Another cluster of commercial resources is located east of the intersection, along Fairview Road, according to Wise Preservation Planning's research.

Houses are primarily frame or stucco-over-masonry buildings, generally two or 2.5-stories tall. They are generally a conservative interpretation of the Queen Anne or Gothic Revival styles, with jigsaw detailing in the peaks of the gables and on the porches.

Based on Wise Preservation Planning's research, the origins of the village began with a cluster of buildings around a mill owned by James Moore. An 1847 map shows the grist mill and store, then operated by Henry Myers, near the intersection of Fairview and Creek Roads. Blacksmith and wheelwright shops were constructed nearby in the following decade.

The East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad (1860) spurred economic growth in the village. The village began to take shape in 1864, when James Moore subdivided his land holdings and created village lots along the roads.

As the village developed, it was known by various names before settling upon the name of Glenmoore. In addition to being called Rockdale on one map, the village was also called Moore's Town after James Moore. And in 1869, the Norwood Post Office opened in the general store, giving a third name. With the construction of the Glenmoore Hotel in 1870 and the adoption of the name—Glenmoore for the post office—the current name superseded earlier names. After that time, the village was sometimes called Glenmoore and sometimes Glen Moore.

Initially spearheaded by the late Jane Davidson, the township's Preservation Committee was composed of Sandy Brannan, chairman Russ Bransberg, Jamie DeJesus, Jane Delpaggio, Susan Giangulio, Shirley Grier, Sally Haegle, Scott Juenger, Doris Miller, Harold Miller, John Miller,

John Morley, Marian and David Neil, Shirley and John O'Brien, Betty Pike, Lorianne Reynolds, Martha Roeder, Janet Slovanic, Sally Ann Swavely and Harold Ziserman.

Brannan, archivist for the township's Historical Commission, was given special recognition for all her efforts on the project.

Historic goodies sent by Caroline Ash

Downingtown native Caroline Ash, who now lives in Chicago, sent us a package, filled with historic goodies, which we'll be noting in coming Hist-O-Grams.

We'll start by citing two items related to social functions held at the Downingtown Opera House, which was built on the west side of Brandywine Avenue and opened in 1903. Both are small dance cards with fancy covers, which were used by a woman to record the names of the gentlemen with whom she intended to dance with at a formal ball.

The oldest card was for the Downingtown Assembly, which was held at the Opera House in 1905. It lists 18 dances, including two-steps, waltzes and caprices (dancing to a type of music that was described as a "free-form" and "lively"). Members of the Assembly Committee were Edgar Hutchison, Dr. John Zook Jr., Wilmer Biles, Benjamin Fernan and Kirk Smith.

The other card was for St. Valentines Dance held at the Opera House in 1906. The dance committee included William Mendenhall, Clarence Bicking, Corbin Hutchison and Charles McFadden.

Another interesting piece in Caroline's packet was a program for a minstrel held at the Roosevelt Theatre in 1928. Members of the Washington Camp, No. 338, of the Patriotic Sons of America (POSA) based in Downingtown, sponsored and conducted the minstrel. POSA officers at the time were William Barrett, president; and Frank Swarner and George Taylor, secretaries.

Members of the cast included George Loughlin, Gordon Carpenter, William Shilladay, John LeFevre, Frank Swarner, Herbert Ash, Rea Swarner, George Walton, Charles Berstler, William Barrett, Percy Windle, Talbert Swarner, Horace Miller, Thomas Philips, Hathaway Frain, Robert Ax, George Taylor, Ross Keech and Perry Tyson.

And members of the orchestra were Mrs. Ralph Smith, violin; Amos Miley, director and cornet; Paul Keyler, trombone; Ralph Smith, clarinet; Edward Murray, drums; and William Saunders, piano.

The production was directed by Thomas Philips, and it was staged by Frank Swarner. Elmer Schrupf was responsible for the wardrobes and properties.

Editor's Note: We're not sure when the Opera House was transformed into the Roosevelt Theatre. But according to Jane Davidson's "A History of Downingtown" crowds lined all the way to the intersection of Brandywine and Lancaster Avenues in 1919, when a movie entitled "The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin" was being shown there. It's possible that this new phenomenon, "moving pictures," and not the subject matter, attracted the crowd.

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

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

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page.

We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

It's at 601 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as the office of Senior Financial Solutions Inc., which is located at 601 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough.

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

Free ads for local non-profits

Free Community Concerts

The Brandywine Area Community Choir, directed by Steve McFalls, will present a free concert at East Brandywine Baptist Church, 999 Horseshoe Pike, at 7 PM on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The concert is titled "An Evening with Gaither Gospel and a Stirring Salute to Our Patriots."

The gospel portion will include Gaither numbers and "spirited" spiritual music. The men's chorus will present several patriotic numbers, including the emotionally moving *Count the Costs* and a newly arranged version of our *National Anthem*. The entire chorus will finish the program with a rousing rendition of the Service Songs from each branch of our military, which will honor active-duty as well as military veterans in the audience. The concert will end with the powerful Wilhousky arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Combining patriotic and spiritual passion, this choir of 50+ members, representing over a dozen different churches, will entertain and inspire the audience with this evening of music. The East Brandywine concert will benefit One Run Together, a charity founded to assist families of cancer patients. Freewill offerings will be accepted in support of these charities at each concert.

Programs at the Downingtown Library

Pre-registration is required for the three programs listed below, which will be offered at the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. You can sign up by accessing <http://www.downintownlibrary.org/> or by calling 610-269-2741.

Tuesday, Oct 1, **Backyard Beekeeping** - Beekeepers Pat Doyle and Debra Pieri will walk program attendees through the adventures of backyard beekeeping. Program will include discussion, equipment, and a live observation hive. The program will be from 6-7:30 PM.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, **Making Sense of Medicare** - Presenter, Ellen Good, MSW, will speak about how Medicare works, managing your plan, cost issues, and how to maximize coverage. Program includes question/answer session. Program will be from 6:30-7:30pm.

Thursday, Oct. 10, **DAPI Ghost Report** - The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators' program will include a combination of photos, video, and electronic voice phenomenon of investigations held in the Downingtown area and at the library. The program will be from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Operation Military Christmas Stocking

Help send holiday spirit to our troops in Afghanistan. Suggested pocket-sized items to be dropped off on weekdays between 9 AM and 4 PM at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike or on Saturdays and Sundays at the Village Hardware, Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, BEFORE Friday, Oct. 11: games, chapstick, candy, and small game books (Sudoku, crosswords), nail clippers, Q-Tips, hand sanitizer, baby wipes in individual packs, individual dry soups, packets of individual-size hot and cold powdered drinks, nuts, Trail Mix, and trial-size men's deodorant, shampoo and body wash. No glass or aerosol items can be shipped. For more info, call the township at 610-269-8230.

Downingtown Farmers Market

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

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

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

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