



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 14

April 3, 2014

We're going to try this one again



We were astounded when no one identified the historic site, shown above, when we originally used it as the “Where and What Is This?” photo in the March 13 Hist-O-Gram. So, we’re giving you another shot at identifying the photo, which was taken by Mike Dunn. The first person to correctly identify the site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, he or she will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, to be used at a local restaurant. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news items from 68 years ago

Noted below are news items about the Downingtown area, which were originally published in local newspapers in November 1946.

Want ads, placed by **Grocery Store Products**, specifically tried to employ “Downingtown Women” by offering them free transportation to the food processing plant in West Chester. Other

incentives included: wages of up to 65 cents an hour, free coffee in a lounge, and “free accident and sickness insurance.”

Members of **Mount Raymond UAME Church**, Downingtown, conducted a mortgage burning ceremony.

The **Downingtown Rotary Club** hosted four local vets and their “war brides.” They were: Mark Bareford and Aloise, from England; George Loomis and Henrietta, from Ireland; Francis Summers and Kathleen, from England; and Austin Dunn and Helen, from Scotland.

Leaders of the Ladies Aid Society at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Albert Moerman, president; Mrs. Frank Knauer, vice president; Dorothy Bransford, secretary; and Mrs. B.M. Hashinger, treasurer.

Members of the decorating committee for the Hi-Y Club at **Lionville Elementary School**, who put on a Halloween party were chairman Sam Forrester, Cora Smedley, Harry Dewees, Janet Wallace and Jack Witmer. Games were led by David Taylor, Sammy Supplee and Meredith Ruark. Judging costumes were Mrs. Elmer Ruth, Mrs. Dave Smedley and Mrs. George Ruark. Costume winners included Carl Ruth and Lionel Shaeffer, dressed as a bride and groom, prettiest; and Harry Dewees, ugliest and funniest.

Participants in the Young Adults Fellowship Group’s musical program at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Robert Lillard, trombone solos; contralto Marion Wollerton; violin solos by Dr. Charles Bruton; and piano duets by Geraldine Swarner and Betty Jane Miller.

Local residents were invited to a mid-day **Thanksgiving dinner** (\$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for kids) at the Odd Fellows Hall in Lionville.

Also, the **Tea House**, at 343 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, advertised its Thanksgiving dinner (roasted “Oaklands Farm” turkey or baked ham) for \$2.50.

Area residents were encouraged to work off some of their extra Thanksgiving calories at the semi-formal dance, sponsored by the **Downingtown Junior Auxiliary of the Memorial Hospital**, held at the Alert Fire Co.

And winners in the costume judging at the Halloween party at Uwchlan Township’s **Mount Airy School** were Theodore Graybill, funniest; Peggy Perkins, prettiest; Vivian Perkins, cutest; Henry Hine, ugliest; Bob Keeseey, craziest; and Charles Long, fattest.

Girl Scout Troop 10, sponsored a Hayseed Hop at the Marshallton School. Stan Johnson was the caller for square dancing, and Harry Palmer’s Orchestra played for “modern” dancing.

Members of the Crusader class at **St. Paul’s UCC Church**, Lionville, had a Halloween party. Decorations were handled by Mr. and Mrs. William Whitely and Mr. and Mrs. William Peterman. Judges Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Abel and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Devaney selected the following costume winners: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shaeffer, attired as a bride and groom, prettiest; Christine Shaeffer, whose skirt was made of corn husks, most original; Everett Wilson, funniest; and Elizabeth Cornwall, last guessed.

More than 5,000 fans, at the DHS stadium on Thanksgiving morning, watched the **DHS football team** upset undefeated Pottstown 26-12, as the Whippets avenged the “painting up” (allegedly by Pottstown rooters) of Downingtown Junior-Senior High’s exterior walls the night before the game. Dick Dague set up the first DHS touchdown when he intercepted a pass, and ran it back to the 16-yard line and then scored on a four-yard plunge. And in the second quarter, Dague tossed a 12-yard TD pass to George Proctor. Whippet quarterback Joe Capriotti sewed up the win when he ran for two touchdowns in the fourth period.

Information on Todd Stong, DHS Hall of Fame inductee

This is another article on a DHS graduate who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, which was recently established by the Downingtown Area School District and the Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association. The information is based on data noted on the nominations forms submitted to the selection committee.

The honorees will be inducted at the Alumni Association's 130th annual banquet at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 W. Church St., Downingtown, on Saturday evening, April 26. More information about the banquet can be provided by calling Caryn Menna at (610) 883-3917.

Tickets can be purchased via

www.downingtowntownalumni.org/Documents/DAHSAA_BanquetReservation%202014.pdf.

Noted below are details on Todd Stong, Class of 1958's valedictorian, Achievement in Humanitarian and Military. According to the nomination form, submitted by a classmate, Jack McCombs. Stong's accomplishments included:

- Graduated in the top 10 percent of West Point's Class of 1962. Military service included deployment to South Korea and Vietnam. Earned bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in civil engineering, both in 1966. In 1973, he was assigned to the Defense Nuclear Agency in Washington, D.C., where he planned and managed underground nuclear tests. Earned a Ph.D. in 1975. In 1977, Stong received Creative Thinker Award at Army Command and Staff College. Served in Germany seven years, where he used his engineering expertise to develop projects that included both defense and ecological enhancements. Directed Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, 1985-88, and in 1988-90, was Chief Scientist of Army's SDI project, better known as President Reagan's "Star Wars" program. Col. Stong retired from the Army in 1990, after he received many decorations including: the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.
- As Chief Scientist for Coleman Research Corp. for six years, he developed and directed technology initiatives for the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.
- Retired from private sector in 1996, Dr. Stong has been a volunteer engineer in Third World countries, for more than 17 years, working on water supply and sanitation projects.

Divine dining at the Dilworthtown Inn

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen and Ron Meacham, who won the grand prize—dinner at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society this past fall.

The rain did not dampen our delightful dining experience at The Dilworthtown Inn, whose history dates back to 1758. The original homestead of James Dilworth evolved into a tavern in 1770, and was renamed several times before becoming The Dilworthtown Inn in 1821. Severely damaged in the Battle of the Brandywine, it recovered and remains an integral part of the village of Dilworthtown, south of West Chester. Through most of the 1900's, the Inn served as a private home and boarding house. It was restored in 1969 and reopened as the present restaurant in 1972.

Guests are seated throughout the Inn's three floors and fifteen dining areas. Each room, complete with fireplace and candlelight, provides a quiet, intimate and pleasant Colonial atmosphere. The Inn's wine cellar offers a wide variety of fine wines, with selections offered by the glass, or liqueurs to suit any taste. The Inn prides itself on serving only the freshest seafood and finest cuts of meats, which our entrée's delightfully confirmed. Our artfully prepared appetizers included escargot, oysters, calamari and lobster bisque. The salmon and sea bass

entrées were delicately prepared, and the filet mignon was mouthwatering. All came with well-proportioned vegetable sides. The dessert menu included a “to-die for” selection, and we can say the crème’ brulee and rhubarb/raspberry yogurt cheesecake were the perfect toppers. The staff was helpful from the moment we arrived. And our server, Jeff, who has been with the Inn for many years, was informative and delightful, providing efficient and non-intrusive service.

Reservations are highly recommended. If you want to know more about the restaurant and its menu, visit the website: www.dilworthtown.com.

We want to thank The Dilworthtown Inn for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society’s “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.

It’s at 375 North Ship Road, Exton



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as the Benjamin Jacobs House, circa 1790, which is posted on the National Register of Historic Places. For more details on the house, once part of the Church Farm School in West Whiteland, see: www.zillow.com/homedetails/375-N-Ship-Rd-Exton-PA-19341/2110592912_zpid/.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won’t share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

By the way, you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, Registered Representative

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

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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 Non-Profits

Citizen and Business of the Year Awards

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its Outstanding Citizen and Business of the Year Awards. Nominations must be submitted by Monday, April 7. For more details about the awards and nominations see:

<http://dtrcc.com/Citizen-Business%20of%20the%20Year.html>.

The awards will be presented at the Chamber's 69th annual dinner on Thursday, May 1, at the Downingtown Country Club. For tickets and additional info about the dinner, see:

[http://dtrcc.com/Documents/2014%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation%20\(1\).pdf](http://dtrcc.com/Documents/2014%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation%20(1).pdf).

Program on Watergate

The Old Caln Historical Society will host a program on Watergate, presented by Ross Kershey, former Coatesville Area High School history teacher, on Sunday, April 6, at the Caln Township Building, on Municipal Drive in Thorndale. The free program, which open to the public, will begin at 2 PM. Please use the rear entrance.

Drug Take-Back Day

On Saturday, April 26, from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Flea market

Spring Flea Market. 4-7 PM Friday, April 11 and 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday, April 12
Donations now being accepted. All proceeds benefit the Downingtown Library.

Also, Meditation for Creativity: 6:30 PM Monday, April 28. Program focuses on drawing inspiration from meditation.

For more info on these activities, call the library at 610-269-2741.

East Brandywine Baptist's history

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the history of East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 27.

Alert Fire Co. golf outing

The Alert Fire Co. will hold a golf outing on Monday, May 5, at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee for each golfer is \$100, which includes greens fee, cart, lunch, beverages on the course, awards dinner and five competitions. See www.alertgolfouting.org for registration and contest details.

Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, sponsors of the Halloween and Christmas parades, will have a "Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races" on Saturday, May 3 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors will open at 5:30 PM. Buffet begins at 6 PM. Horse racing will begin immediately following the actual Kentucky Derby. For more details, see: www.dtownchristmas.com.

Soccer for players with special needs

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's High 5 soccer program will be held at Fellowship Fields, 275 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning April 12. The free program is for players, between 5 and 19 years of age, who have special needs. For more info, go to: www.geyasoccer.org.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Downingtown Farmers' Market

The Downingtown Farmers' Market will be open over the winter months on the following Thursdays: April 3 and 17, at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM. 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.

Banquet Room for Rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 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**

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Vol. 5, No. 15

April 10, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

Interesting Downingtown area news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in April 1978.

The **Downingtown Area School Board** discussed the possibility of eliminating the per capita tax, which was characterized as a “nuisance” for senior citizens by Norma Smith, school board representative from Uwchlan. The tax was projected to generate \$160,000 the following year, and the cost of collecting the tax was estimated to be 15 percent of the revenue received.

Jack McCausland, who was born in the township in 1903, recalled that his 160-acre farm in **East Brandywine** once touched 13 other farms. He also estimated that there were *only* 25 working farms in the township.

After a **West Pikeland** woman had been shot, the township’s supervisors considered establishing a full-time police force. However, the supervisors acknowledged that a police department would mean the township’s real estate tax rate would have to be tripled.

The **Uwchlan Ambulance Corps** had an open house at its new headquarters on Welsh Pool Road, Lionville. The Corps had been operating out of the Lionville Fire Company’s garage on Village Avenue. Organized in 1974, with 35 men and women, the unit’s first ambulance was delivered in July 1975. Officers in 1978 were Cal Wilhelm, president; Mary Ellen Morrissey, vice president; Joan Pladek, secretary; Lois Norwood, financial secretary; Jim Hart and Donald Dockstader, trustees; and Ed Milham, operations director.

Recent **property transfers** included: 106 Hilltop Road, East Brandywine, \$43, 118; 1411 Carriage Lane, West Bradford, \$51,000; 120 Washington Ave., Downingtown, \$41,000; 505 Carmarthen Court, Uwchlan, \$60,990; 18 Gunning Lane, East Caln, \$54,600; 1 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$63,000;

Newly elected officers at **St. Anthony’s Lodge**, Downingtown, were Josephine Pacinelli, president; Florence Mascherino, vice president; Josephine Carbo, treasurer; Rose Castaldi, recording secretary; and Mary Celii, corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Margareta Mahan Helm received the Distinguished Service Award at the **DHS Alumni Association’s** banquet. And Anne Dowlin and John Dagher were named the Class of 1978’s outstanding seniors. Also at the banquet, Emily Lewis, Class of 1928, reminisced that when she was a first grader at East Ward School, students used dried corn to form words on their desktops as part of their spelling lessons. The corn also was used for math instruction.

Members of the cast of the musical, put on by **Lionville Junior High** students, included: Wayne Ritchie, John Hurst, Robert McClarin, Matthew Smith, Jennifer Abrams, Carol Styer, Tracy DeRocco, Brian Robison, and Richard Rush.

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, told a group of **West Pikeland** parents, who were protesting against a plan to transfer 87 students from Pickering Valley School to Lionville Elementary School, that the only alternative was hiring two more teachers which the School Board was reluctant to do.

Confirmed at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Patrick Borst, Fred Bradley, Douglas Bullock, Craig Davis, Michael Duffy, Harold Elmquist, Douglas Espenlaub, John Kosatka, Dennis McCarraher and Jackie Stevens.

A fashion show and luncheon was held to benefit the **Historic Yellow Springs Foundation**. Those responsible for planning the event were Mrs. Richard McDonald, Mrs. Gustave Orr, Mrs. Roger Smith, Mrs. Boulton Alexander, Mrs. Edward Blitz and Mrs. Bruce Armstrong.

The parking lot was expanded, and a garage was built at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan. Also, Joe Cura was appointed assistant Sunday School superintendent.

The **DHS lacrosse team** beat Unionville 9-3. Anne Kennedy and Kathy Herion scored three goals each, and Jenny Ward, Colleen Murtaugh and Joy Branyan each tallied one.

The **Whippet baseball team**, defending Ches-Mont champs, opened its season with an 11-1 win over Octorara. Buddy Trego was the winning pitcher, and designated hitter Jamie Bogush had four RBIs.

Top typists among seventh graders at **Lionville Junior High** were Lynne Caggiano, Austin Kirkbride, Lisa Nagy and Stacy Welker.

The **School Board** planned to build a new gymnasium, plus construction of nine classrooms, a computer center and a corridor on the second level of DHS. The proposed project, whose estimated cost would be \$2.2 million, also included expansion of the band room, enlargement of the cafeteria, conversion of two storage spaces into an art room, and expansion of the School District offices.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70**, who went on a winter encampment, were Grant Angeny, Dave Bishop, Tom Horblinski, Lane Jarvis, Mike and Eric Raysor, Brian and Tim Gardiner, Joe Handoe, Scott Millward, Jeff Holstein, Lester Doubts and Scott Bell. Their leaders were Scott Stevenson and Ken Bell.

Winners in **Cub Pack 23's** father/son cake decorating contest were Todd Roberts, John Leeper, Steve Schoenberger, Matt Wagner, Steve MacCall, Eric Montgomery, Spike Lane, Kirk Reece, Tim McKim, John Sisforth, Chris Esposito, Joe Butler, Mark Wenger, Donny Bertram, Mike Shaw, Brian Firth, Billy Hoffman, Brian Gottier and Billy Schell.

It's at 325 Jefferis Road in East Brandywine



Linda Cohen is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the historic house in the photo above as 325 Jefferis Road, at the intersection of Dilworth Road in East Brandywine.

Mickey Rooney spent time in Downingtown area

As many of you know, actor Mickey Rooney, one of Hollywood's biggest movie stars in the 1930s and later a character actor in a career that spanned several decades, died last Sunday. He was 93.

However, what some of you may not know is that Rooney spent a lot of time in the Downingtown area, while he was connected with the Downingtown Inn (located where the Brandywine Square Shopping Center is now) and the Tabas Hotel (now Ashbridge Manor) on Route 30 in East Caln. Mickey and his sons, Mickey Jr. and Tim, visited the Downingtown Inn so often that the actor was given his own cottage on the grounds of the inn. For example, he loved going to the race track with Downingtown pharmacist Nick Giunta.

We believe there are many stories about Rooney and his encounters with folks in the Downingtown area. Please send them to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Information on Dr. Richard Whittaker, DHS Hall of Fame inductee

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Noted below are details on Richard Whittaker, Class of 1958, Achievements in Medicine and Humanitarian Service. According to the nomination form, submitted by classmate Jack McCombs. Whittaker's accomplishments included:

- Whittaker earned his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1966 and completed an orthopedic surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. He started his orthopedic practice in Pottstown in 1974, and has been affiliated with the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center ever since. He has written numerous articles in orthopedic medicine and surgery publications, received many medals and awards, and has been a lecturer at many conferences, and a clinical professor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, from 1978 to the present.
- As part of the Army Reserve, Medical Corps, from 1971 to 2002, Whittaker provided medical care to soldiers and citizens in Panama, Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia in 1991, the Bosnia Peace Mission in 1996 and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. He has earned many humanitarian honors, including the Salvation Army Gold Crest (1985), Rotary International Service Award (1996 and 2004).

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Flower sale

Marshallton United Methodist Church's Men's Flower Sale will begin Friday, May 9 and will continue through Wednesday, May 28. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

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

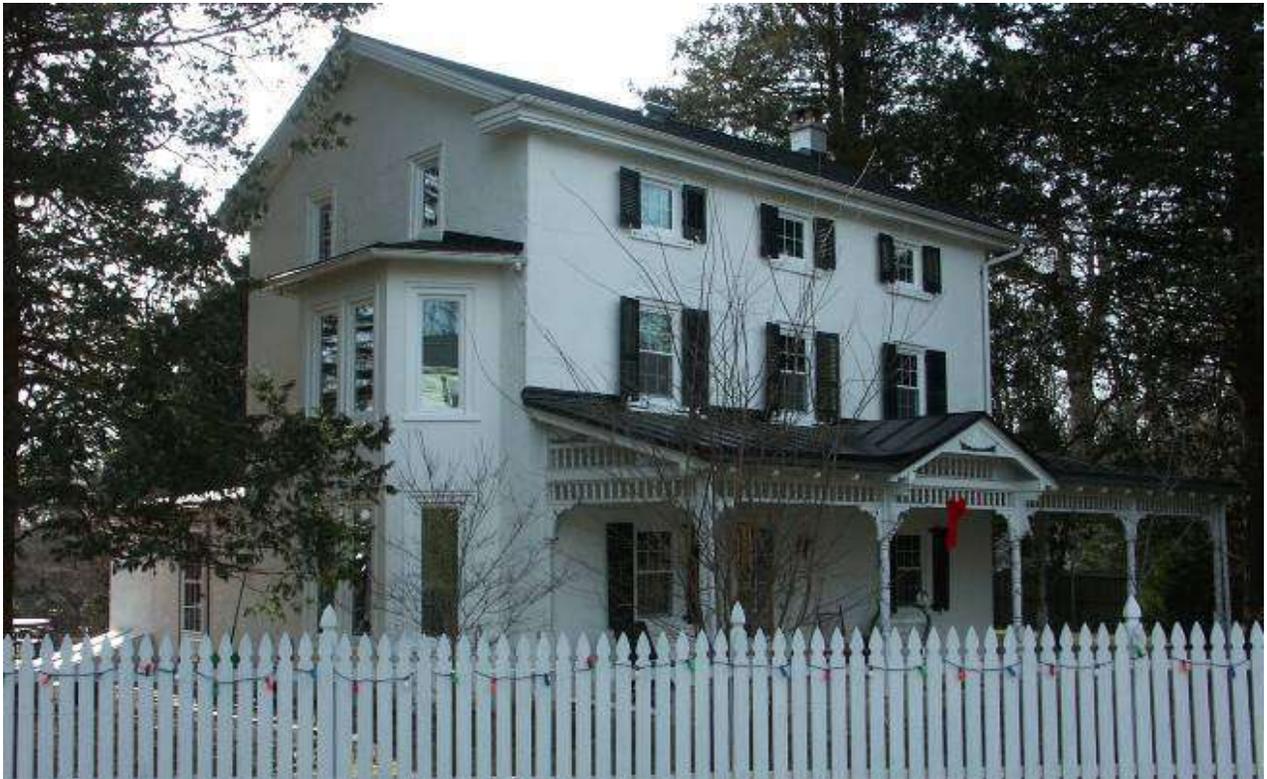
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Vol. 5, No. 16

April 17, 2014

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Local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items were originally published by local newspapers in the early part of May 1962.

Plans for a **Downingtown National Bank** branch, to be built on a 2.5-acre site along Route 100 in Lionville, were presented to the Uwchlan Township supervisors.

Ruth Anne Miller, a DHS junior, was the only Pennsylvania representative who was selected to play in the USA High School Band, which gave concerts in Florence, Rome, Venice, Innsbruck, Paris and London. She began playing the clarinet when she was a third grader at West Ward School.

Members of the **Downingtown branch of the American Red Cross**, who manned the bloodmobile at the Atlantic Refining Co. in Philadelphia, were Julia Pollock, Mary Kline, Helen Davis, Florence McGuckin, Susie Hansen, Eleanor Seneff, Elaine Hague, Betty Muskey, Adelaide Hamm, Lois Spiese, Betty Serafino and Peggy Stern.

New members of **Girl Scout Troop 94**, Lionville, were Kathy Baldwin, Nancy Braden, Debbie Corliss, Susan Eubanks, Betty Ann Galey, Patty Herion, Carol Koser, Judy Phipps, Gloria Walton, Betty Winkler, Maryalis Worthington, Linda Wunch and Debbie Whitely.

Officers elected to lead the **Future Nurses Club** at DHS were Maryanne DeMatteo, president; Anne Asparagus, vice president; Eileen Sbei, secretary; Anne Thompson, treasurer; and Helen Archie, historian.

Second graders, who presented an entertaining program at **East Ward School**, included Mitchell Boggs, Charles Hingley, James Hall, James LaMar, Charles McHenry, Stephen Umberger, Robert Warner, Joyce Beam, Nancy Boyd, Charlotte Carter, Megan Echols, Lois Fuller, Denise Holden, Linda Ravert, Sheila Suleski, Mary Ann Ursini, Carolyn Harris and Vicki Freas.

Officers of the DHS chapter of the **Future Farmers of America** were Richard Wheatley, president; Claude Ortlip, vice president; Robert Frame, secretary; Robert Ruark, treasurer; Jack Buchanan, reporter; Justin Buchanan, sentinel; Newell Burdick, chaplain; and Francis DuBosq, student advisor.

Golfers began to play at the **Ingleside Manor** course in Thorndale. The 18-hole, par-73 course, on 164 acres, which once was part of President James Buchanan's farm, was owned by Christian Zinn. Harold Heckman was the manager, and Butch Sweigart was the pro. Membership at the club was \$200 a year; otherwise, the greens fees were \$3 (\$2 after 5 PM) on weekdays and \$4 on weekends.

Although Bill Pollock won the low hurdles in 21.7 and John Horsey came in first in the 220 with a time of 24.8, the **DHS track team** lost a meet with Kennett Square, 63-41.

Members of **Brownie Troop 83**, Downingtown, who toured the Plain and Fancy Amish Farm near Lancaster, included Brenda Murphy, Denine and Darlene Koth, Grace DiBerardinis, Carol Steidler, Diane Peterman, Jean Marie and Michelle Guerrieri, Jo Ann Morris, Kathy Windle, Joyce Beam, Betsy Robbins, Jo Ann Hartman, Tracy Laird, Rosemary Gazzo and Kitty Martin. Transportation was provided by Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Koth and Austin Windle. Troop leaders were Mrs. Herbert Tompkins and Mrs. James Murphy.

Ranchers at the new **Crestmont Farms** development in West Bradford were going for \$18,990, and split levels were priced at \$17,990. And ranchers in the new **Sunnybrook** development in Downingtown were going for \$15,500, and bi-levels were priced at \$16,350.

Installed as officers of the WSCS at Glenmoore Methodist Church were Mrs. Charles Earnshaw, president; Mrs. Grier Miller, vice president; Mrs. Harry Messner, secretary; Mrs. Raymond MacDougal, treasurer; Mrs. Lloyd Johnson, secretary of promotion; Mrs. James Kennan, secretary of spiritual life; Mrs. Hemphill Ayers, secretary of literature; and Mrs. John Shrader, secretary of supply.

A bases-loaded single by Sam Westmoreland provided the spark for the **Whippet baseball** squad to beat Spring-Ford 11-9 in a come-from-behind game.

Members of **Cub Pack 2**, Downingtown, who earned badges were Bobby Beamesderfer, Jackie Hough, Vincent Cozzone, Mark Dreibelbis, Ken Harman, Don Lawrence, Jimmy Jarvis and Bobby Osborne. Chuckie Mitman, Gary Burkey and Mike Norris earned service pins.

The restored bell, which had called Lionville children to the local school since the late 19th Century, was installed at the **Lionville Elementary School** on Route 113. In 1876, Jacob Acker bequeathed \$50 in his will so the Uwchlan Township School Board could buy a bell for the original Lionville School.

Sam Westmoreland and Nancy Gindin received the Optimist Club trophy for being the outstanding male and female athletes, respectively, at the **DHS all sports banquet**. Jack Ramsey, basketball coach at St. Joseph's College and future hall of famer, was the speaker.

Officers of the **West Pikeland PTA** were Mrs. John Henssler, president; Mrs. Harry Levering, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, secretary; Mrs. Harley Fink, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Knox, corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Philip Lyons was elected president of the **Ladies of St. Joseph**. Also elected were Mrs. Joseph Driscoll, vice president; Mrs. Charles Snyder, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ernest Panetti, recording secretary; and Josephine Valentino, treasurer.

A 24-bed psychiatric addition to **Villa St. John**, Downingtown, was planned. The \$300,000 project was to triple the size of the facility.

Donald Corneal earned the rank of Eagle at a court of honor conducted by **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville. Other award winners were James Wunch, Leland Bassett, Charles Wertz, Richard and Thomas Shreiner, Stephen and William Behrndt, Russell Geare and Robert Worthington.

Officers elected by members of the WSCS at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Mrs. Elmer Kohls, president; Mrs. Howard Adams, vice president; Mrs. Paul Garver, secretary; and Mrs. Paul McCombs, treasurer.

Named as trustees at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Howard Laird, Alex Jefferis, Arthur Lowery, Edward and John McCausland, Clair Piersol, Edward and Peter Plank, Peter Smith, and Richard Warren.

David Robbins, a Downingtown Junior High seventh grader who was a carrier for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, was named Newsboy of the Year in a competition sponsored by the Goodyear Tire Co. In addition to winning a \$50 Savings Bond and a new set of tires, David's photo appeared in *Boys Life* and *Junior Scholastic* magazines.

Mrs. Douglas Barr was re-elected president of the Women's Society of Christian Service at **Marshallton Methodist Church**. Others elected were Mrs. Norman Hume, vice president; Noel Edwards, secretary; and Mrs. George Fling, treasurer.

Mixed reviews on Mickey Rooney's local performances

We received two responses to our request in last week's Hist-O-Gram, which sought recollections about the recently deceased Mickey Rooney, who spent a lot of time in the Downingtown area, in the late 1960s. Back then, Rooney was connected with the Downingtown Inn (located where the Brandywine Square Shopping Center is now) and the Tabas Hotel (now Ashbridge Manor) on Route 30 in East Caln.

Jack Donkewicz, a long-time borough resident, recalls seeing Mickey several times at the Coffee Cup in Downingtown, where the movie star liked to hang out and have breakfast. "One time I sat at the counter at The Cup, and there was Mickey. Ever the actor, he went through some one liners and shtick."

However, Rose Mascherino Ciarlone provided us with a different perspective. I remember when Mickey Rooney used to come up to the club (St. Anthony's Lodge) to eat. He was a complete slob. He was arrogant and ignorant, plus he was a lousy tipper. And he ate with his fingers; no manners whatsoever."

Rose's father, Louis A. "Rounnie" Mascherino, who used to wait on Rooney at St. Anthony's, was often asked: "Rounnie, you're waiting on Mickey Rooney, are you excited?" And her father would reply: "Hell no, his poopie smells just like yours and mine."

"That was the *best* lesson in life my father taught me. Everyone's poop smells the same. Ain't nobody different or better than anyone else? I've used this lesson all my life and still do."

Although actors under contract to major studios in Hollywood years ago often were required to take classes on social grace as well as acting, apparently, Rooney bagged several of the charm classes.

11 schools receive Governor's Excellence Award

Eleven Downingtown Area School District schools received the Governor's Excellence Award in Academics on Monday, according to local newspaper coverage. The awards are based on the new Pennsylvania School Performance Profile. Schools that received a score of 90 or higher on the performance profile during the 2012-13 academic year received the award.

The STEM Academy, which ranked number one in the commonwealth, received a score of 101.4, the highest of more than 3,000 Pennsylvania schools.

Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumaesq presented the award to the following Downingtown schools: STEM Academy; Shamona Creek Elementary School; Bradford Heights Elementary School; Downingtown High School East Campus; Pickering Valley Elementary School; Springton Manor Elementary School; Downingtown High School West Campus; Lionville Middle School; West Bradford Elementary School; Uwchlan Hills Elementary School; and Downingtown Middle School.

The performance profile scores place the Downingtown middle schools in the top 14 percent of the state. Downingtown High School East and West are in the top 9 percent of the high schools in Pennsylvania. And four Downingtown area schools were ranked in the top 10, of all elementary schools in the commonwealth.

Among the factors taken into consideration in a school performance score are state and national test scores, progress in closing achievement gaps, and degree of student growth over time. Other score factors include graduation and attendance rates and rigorous academic courses. Schools may earn extra points beyond the 100-point scoring system for students who have earned advanced scores on the state Keystone, industry standards-based competency assessments, and Advanced Placement Exams.

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

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our FREE Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Our archives now include articles about local businesses, organizations and churches

One of the ways we learn about our past is by reading old newspaper articles, which keep us informed about local happenings. And to make that information accessible to the public, the Downingtown Area Historical Society has organized the newspaper articles in our archival collection into two basic groupings: **Family Files** and **Topic Files**. Both sets of files include articles, which were clipped by Historical Society volunteers, from local newspapers and pasted on 14 x 8 cardstock. Newspapers that were sources of the articles include: *The Downingtown News*, *The Archive*, *The East Branch Citizen*, *The Daily Local News*, *The Downingtown Ledger* and the *Community Courier*, all of which covered the Downingtown area.

The Family Files are comprised of articles about engagements, retirements, weddings, deaths, etc., about local people. The Family Files collection contains **over 9,000 names**, and is constantly being updated. The files primarily include articles from the 1970's to the present. They also include some articles, which were clipped from earlier newspapers. All of the Family Files were entered into the index by Michael Homan, a DHS East grad who now attends West Chester University.

The **Family Files** Index can be accessed via "Online Indexes" which is located on the top of the opening page of our website, www.Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org. The index is organized by the last name, and the first letter of the first name. Hence, the cards often contain articles about several persons who have the same last name and the same first initial of their first name. A third column, which has been added to the index, is called "family genealogy." These files include miscellaneous information about a family. Some have family trees and printed material about a family copied from other sources.

The **Topic Files** include articles about local businesses, churches, government and organizations. And they'll soon include articles on local schools. To help people to find information on articles included in both sets of files, we have established separate indexes, which provide basic information. You can access the respective indexes by clicking on:

[FAMILY FILES INDEX - A through L](#)

[FAMILY FILES INDEX - M through Z](#)

[TOPIC FILES INDEX](#)

More information on the indexes can be obtained by contacting us at: info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, or by visiting Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant on Route 30 in East Caln, from 1-4 PM on Sundays,.

It's at 440 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown



Seth Boer is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the above photo as 440 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown. You can find more details about this Cape Cod-style house, built in 1923, at: www.trulia.com/property/35991583-440-Jefferson-Ave-Downingtown-PA-19335.

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Meditation for Creativity: 6:30 PM Monday, April 28. Program focuses on drawing inspiration from meditation. For more info on these activities, call the library at 610-269-2741.

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Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Downingtown Area Historical Society

Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 17

April 24, 2014

Where and What Is This?



This photo of a former schoolhouse may not be easy to identify specifically, because many of them in the Downingtown area have been transformed into homes. The first person to correctly identify this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

More local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items were originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of May 1962.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** decided to sponsor a horse show in October. The committee responsible for the horse show included chairman Gene DiSantis, Joseph Mento, Charles Thompson and Ronald Lawlor. Proceeds from the show were to be used to buy Christmas lights for the borough's business district.

Among the 28 Chester County taprooms, eating establishments and private clubs **raided by the state police** were these Downingtwn locations: Glisson's Tavern, Daylor's Bar, Silver Dollar Bar, Crossroads Tavern, Roland's Café and the Hotel Downingtwn.

Bill Pollock, a DHS junior who came in second last year, won the 180 hurdles race at the Class B state track championships held at Penn State. And Downingtwn's 880 relay team—comprised of Pollock, Gordie Flowers, Andy Hardin and John Horsey—came in fifth.

Elected as officers of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League** were Mrs. James Martin, president; Mrs. Robert MacDougal, vice president; Mrs. Carl Kopenhaver, secretary; and Mrs. Preston Rishaw, treasurer.

Installed as officers of the Live Wire Bible Class at **Downingtwn Methodist Church** were Mrs. Norman Whiteside, president; Mrs. Harvey Young, vice president; Mrs. George Wagner, secretary; and Mrs. William Woodward, treasurer.

Debbie Lawson, Harry Levering, Judy Weaver, Susan Lewis, Paul Willoughby, and Brian and Michael Peterman made paper parrots which were part of the decorations for a Latin American supper at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville.

Enrollment in **Downingtwn's secondary grades** in the 1962-63 school year were projected to be 586 in the senior high and 734 in the junior high.

Named teachers and helpers at the **Romansville Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School in the coming summer were Dolly Caldwell, Gail and Grace Fry, Fran, Ruth and Jackie Wertz, Carlene Huyard, Bernice Shirk, Diane Curry, Gladys Bealer, Judy and Jean Eckboldt, Ruth Ann and Villa Osborn, Viola and David Fellenbaum, Freddie Martin and Rev. Robert Duncan. And elected as leaders of the Youth Fellowship group at the church were David Fellenbaum, president; Robert Caldwell, vice president; John Chamberlain, recording secretary; Joe Chamberlain, corresponding secretary; and Dolly Caldwell, treasurer.

Girls selected to be in the **DHS marching band's** color guard the next year were Jeanne Watts, Nancy Heugh, Nancy Jessee, Donna McElroy, Susan Martin, Cindy Dellett and Audrey Strouse. And the majorettes chosen were Cheryl Rohrer, Wilma Matlack, Janine Davis, Shirley Smith, Priscilla Brown, Beverly Mitchell, Donna Edwards, Cheryl Krapf and Gail Katherman.

Vincent Talucci and Perry Noble opened the **Downingtwn Flower Shop** at 208 W. Lancaster Ave. in the borough.

The Downingtwn branch of the **Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** appointed following chairman: Mrs. Thomas Brookover and Mrs. Edwin Johnson, ways and means; Mrs. Kurt Wandel, pinkies; Mrs. Frank Hughes, telephone; Mrs. Robert Dean, Chester County Day; Mrs. Thomas Parke, gift shop; and Mrs. Robert Bowman, hostess.

Recently elected as trustees at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Robert Ellis, Hubert Stokes, Randall Yarnall, William Ludwick, Mrs. David Johnson, William James, Clifford Queen, Harry Verngren and Nicholas Maropis.

Officers of **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Bethany Circle were Pearle Roberts, president; Peg Whitely, vice president; Doris Davey, secretary; and Ruth Lammey, treasurer.

Carolyn Stanford's second grade students at **Lionville School** who participated in a program on birds included: Nancy Estheimer, Teena Baker, Walter Murray, Dean Wayman, Mary Keeseey, Jean Abel, Mary Jane Connor, Raymond Leech, Judith Bittmann, Susan Pagett, Glenn Smith, Jeffrey Devaney, Verna Shaw, William Trego, Samuel Corliss, Gregory Langford, Nancy Brumgard, Eileen Panetti, Deborah Austin, Francis Collins, Sylvia Cook, George Phillips, Larry Draper, James Peppernick, Emily Myers, Leona Finkbiner, Joy McLucas, Jacqueline Dowlin, Nancy Just and Leslie Hayes.

Making speeches at **Brandywine-Wallace School's** spring program were second graders Jonathan Inslee, Sherry Davidge, Milton Howe and Becky Wilson. And first graders who sang were Mark Von Hacht, Bobby Meyers, Bonnie Griffin and Stephen Crane.

Members of **Brownie Troop 166**, Glenmoore, who visited sites in Harrisburg, included Carol Ann Burkey, Laverne and Becky Evans, Vickie Gabriel, Ruth Ann and Mary Lou Givler, Karolyn Kelly, Marjorie Munson, Pattie Pease and Lois Slater.

When DHS had the top basketball team in Chester County



The DHS basketball team won the Chester County title for the 1912-13 season. But if you look closely at the players' faces in the photo above, you realize that some of the players probably were beyond their high school years. That's one of the reasons why the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) was established in 1914. Also, it looks like they're wearing football pants and stockings from that era. The photo was donated to the Historical Society by Roxanne Wisler.

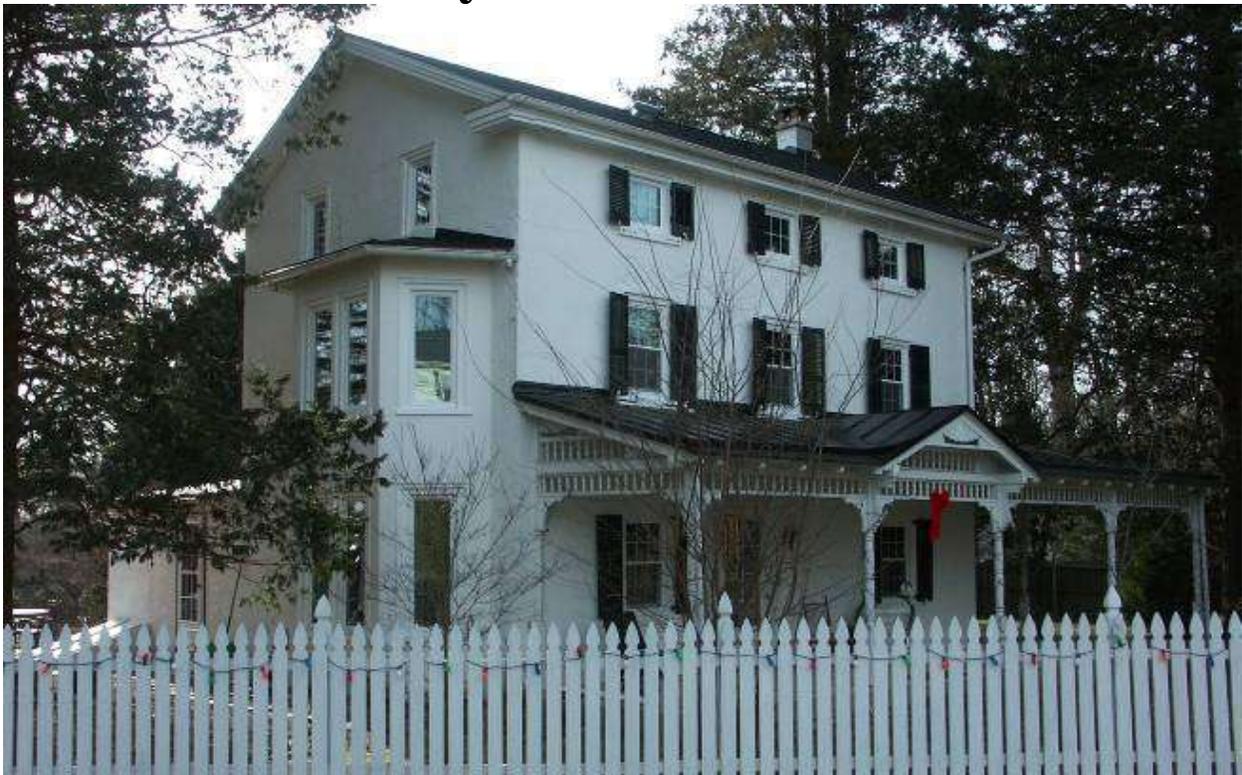
Anyone else remember the train trip to the World's Fair in NYC?

The World's Fair in New York City opened on April 22, 1964. Drew Schwartz, who now lives in Boulder, CO, sent this query:

I remember taking the train to the World's Fair from Downingtown, with my parents and many other members of the community. It was probably a Lions Club-sponsored event. Even though I was only five, I still remember many of the rides and exhibits. My Dad (Dr. Donald Schwartz) was a pediatrician, and he bought a large carpet, depicting dozens of the Disney characters, which hung on the wall in his waiting room for the rest of his career.

If anyone else recalls anything about visiting the World's Fair 50 years ago, please send your recollections to: Info@DowningtownAreaHistoricalSociety.org.

It's at 4 Seminary Road in Glenmoore



Frank Marcocci is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 4 Seminary Road, at the intersection of Seminary and Little Conestoga Roads in Glenmoore. For more info on this 1830s house, see:

<http://www.trulia.com/property/3148106813-4-Seminary-Rd-Glenmoore-PA-19343>.

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behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net



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

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Vol. 5, No. 18

May 1, 2014

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.

Interesting local news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of May 1978.

“It seems as soon as people move into the country, they’ve got to have a dog and let it run loose,” commiserated **Uwchlan** supervisor Harry Rauch at a township meeting. Rauch made that observation after a group of Devon Drive residents complained about dogs running loose in their neighbor. And one resident claimed that Harry Shreiner, the township dog control officer, said he wouldn’t pick up an animal until the police picked it up first.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1512 Stouffs Road, West Bradford, \$57,520; 306 William Salesbury Drive, Uwchlan, \$78,500; 375 Revere Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$69,500; 417 Jefferson Avenue, \$39,900; 608 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$44,000; 6 Wyndham Court, East Brandywine, \$45,000.

Ruth Ann Gillooly was chairman of the **Uwchlan Hills School** Spring Fair. Also on the committee were Ann Antonius, Linda Moran, Nancy Gramling, Steve Barnett, Joan Lytle, Loretta Mongiello, Judy Whipple, Cheryl Gerry, Ruth DelVecchio, Edna Aharonian, Marilyn Dommell, Mary Lee Caggiano, Mary Brown, Becky Slossan, Mary Wychgel, Betty Kapanak, Jeanne Bousum, Donna Lindsay, Sandy Plaeger and Barbara Meier.

Gerald Ford, former U.S. president, spoke at a Republican fundraiser held at the **Downingtown Inn**.

Officers of the recently established **East Brandywine Township Historical Society** were John McCausland, president; Carol Schmidt, vice president; Hazel Miller, secretary; and Ruth Lammey, treasurer. Committee chairmen were Joy Tkachick, membership; and Esther Sideman, oral history.

The staff of the **St. James Nursery School** included Marjorie Myers, director, Julia DiRocco, Gail Veit, Shirley Woodward, Kristen McGuckin and Dora Cumens.

Newly opened restaurants in the borough were the **Spaghetti Bowl** in Downing Center, and the **Red Apple** at 56-58 W. Lancaster Ave.

The **Downingtown Lions Club’s** newly elected officers were Horace Schanley, president; John Canning, first vice president; David Swindin, second vice president; Fred Longenecker, third vice president; Bob Bowker, secretary; Robert Shoffner, treasurer; James Zaferes, tail twister; Bob Wagner, assistant tail twister; Mike Bem, lion tamer; James Ney, assistant lion tamer; Ted Jacobs, greeter; and Wallace Houston, chaplain.

Confirmed at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Howard Elmquist, John Kosatka, Jackie Stevens, Craig Davis, Doug Bullock, Fred Bradley, Doug Espenlaub, Michael Duffy and Patrick Borst.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Exton, celebrated its 150th anniversary at a dinner held at the Church Farm School. New vestry members were Paul Anders, Charles Bedford, John Bell, George Paulson and John Reynolds. New officers were Raymond Belcher, rector’s warden; Barbara Ramsey, accounting warden; William Hannum, treasurer; and Robert Peoples, property chairman.

Downingtown borough decided to spend part of its fourth federal Community Development grant, which totaled \$181,000, on the following projects: \$30,000 for a new heating system at the Minquas firehouse, \$3,000 for a new boiler at the Alert firehouse, and \$10,000 for paving and storm sewers on Viaduct Avenue.

Dave Franklin of Uwchlan, won the 4.5-mile mini-marathon, sponsored by the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Joint Recreation Board**, with a time of 25 minutes, 40 seconds.

Second and third place winners were Brian Smith of Thorndale and Shawn Urbine of Downingtown, respectively. Nancy Reardon placed first among the female runners.

Several **Lionville Junior High** wrestlers competed in a meet at Bucknell University. Tom Urban was named the junior division's outstanding wrestler, and Glen Koser, 105 pounds, and Pete TenHoop, 145 pounds, placed second in their weight classes

Volunteers who were honored for delivering lunches to senior citizens for the **Meals Together** program, conducted at Downingtown United Methodist Church, included: Anna McWilliams, Fran McAllister, Gertrude Woodward, Stella Smith, Gene Charles, Jean Steeley, Virginia Senn, Mabel Davis, Earl Woodward, Libby Carpenter, Pat Blyler, Dick Wolfe, Catherine Grivas, Sally Woodward and Florence Creamer.

Recently baptized at **Windsor Baptist Church** were Georgette March, Cindy Montgomery, Robert Reeder, Nicholas Roman, Michael Shaw, Craig Styer and Ger Yang.

First communicants at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were Steven Byron, Robert Clark, Michael Dow, Robert Hausch, Tammy Meacham, Cheryl Schroeder, Steve Styer, Sherri Zelina and Nina Wells.

It's the former Hopewell School in East Brandywine



Peter Chim is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the former Hopewell School, at the intersection of Rock Raymond and Hopewell Roads in East Brandywine Township. The stone school was built for \$1,400 in 1868, according to Barbara Paul's *A History of Brandywine Township*. The first Hopewell School was a log structure, built in the early 19th Century. It was located across the road, on the property now occupied by Hopewell United Methodist Church. Both institutions were originally known as Batten's. James Batten organized the first Sunday School in the log school house and furnished the land on which the original Methodist meeting house was built. Hopewell was one of the five one-room schoolhouses (the others were Guthriesville, Lyndell, Buck and Bondsville) operated by the East Brandywine School District until the Brandywine-Wallace Jointure was established in 1959 and, subsequently, the Pickering-Brandywine Jointure was formed in 1961.



The photo above, of Hopewell School students during the 1923-24 school year, was sent to us by DHS grad George Bowman, who now lives in Billerica, MA.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday, May 4

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 4, when (we hope) scads of volunteers will participate in our monthly newspaper clipping and pasting session 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.

Fire at historic farm in Caln Township



Six area fire companies responded last Friday afternoon to fight a fire involving the crumbling remains of the stone barn on the former Valley Brook Farm, on Lloyd Avenue in Caln Township. The dairy farm, on the western border of the borough line, was owned for decades by William McClure Lloyd, who bought the property from Elhanan Zook in 1910. Lloyd, a Harvard graduate, gentleman farmer and stockbroker in Philadelphia, died in 1970. In 1967, he donated 30 acres of his land to Caln Township, which became Lloyd Park. In recent years, the property has been owned by the Philadelphia Catholic Archdiocese and is for sale. Although we know the original part of the farmhouse was built in 1757, we have no information on when the barn was constructed. Much of this family history was provided by the Old Caln Historical Society, which is going to have an open house at its headquarters at the Caln Meetinghouse, located at Route 340 and Caln Meetinghouse Road, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 4, and from 6:30-8 PM on Tuesday, May 6; Wednesday, May 7; and Thursday, May 8. Anyone who has information on the Lloyd family or the former Valley Brook Farm is encouraged to send it to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalsociety.org.

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

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our FREE Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

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

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- 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 Non-Profits

'Search for the Blob' bike ride

The Downingtown Main Street Association everyone to participate in a family-friendly, 9.3-mile bike ride through the Downingtown Area. Participants will meet at 8 AM on Saturday, May 10 at the parking lot of Victory Brewpub, 420 Acorn Lane, Downingtown. Following the ride, and even for those who don't ride, there will be a brunch and a showing of the film classic, *The Blob*, beginning at 10 AM. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for kids under 14. For more info, see <http://mrdowntown.blogspot.com/>

Farmers Market changes

Starting May 1, the Downingtown Farmers Market will be held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo on Pennsylvania Avenue, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM,

Flower Sale

Marshallton United Methodist Church's Men's Flower Sale will begin Friday, May 9 and will continue through Wednesday, May 28. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

East Brandywine Baptist's history

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the history of East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 18.

Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts

Table space is available for a Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts sale to be held from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 10 on the grounds of the Old Caln Meetinghouse at Route 340 and Caln Meetinghouse Rd., Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. For more info, please call 610-384-8153.

Alert Fire Co. golf outing

The Alert Fire Co. will hold a golf outing on Monday, May 5, at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee for each golfer is \$100, which includes greens fee, cart, lunch, beverages on the course, awards dinner and five competitions. See www.alertgolfouting.org for registration and contest details.

Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, sponsors of the Halloween and Christmas parades, will have a "Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races" on Saturday, May 3 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors will open at 5:30 PM. Buffet begins at 6 PM. Horse racing will begin immediately following the actual Kentucky Derby. For more details, see:

<http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/NATRFlyer.pdf>

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet Room for Rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help 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



Downingtowntown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 19

May 8, 2014

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When Krista Lang was wounded by a sniper 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of May 1978.

Newspapers across the nation reported that Krista Lang of Downingtown was wounded in both legs when 15-year-old George Hodge randomly fired a rifle in the Manayunk area of Philadelphia at the school bus she was riding in on the Schuylkill Expressway. Krista and 49 other seventh grade classmates from Downingtown Junior High were returning home, after going on a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Teacher-chaperones Jim Eisenhardt and Len Fredericks applied tourniquets to help stop the bleeding from Krista's wounded legs, while the bus immediately changed its route and drove to Paoli Memorial Hospital.

Several days after she underwent surgery at the hospital, Krista expressed disappointment about not being able to play the drums with the Junior High band on an upcoming trip to Hershey or in Downingtown's Memorial Day parade. But she was confident that she would soon be able to continue playing for the Maxwell Hardware team in the Downingtown Girls' Softball League.

Other students who suffered minor injuries, caused by flying debris from the ricocheting bullet, were: Glenvar Harman, Sally McClure, Andrew Mento, Penny Bones, Patricia McCallin, Richard Kefer and Michele Boice.

Today, Dr. Krista Lang Schonrock and her family live in Salt Lake City, UT, where she is a physician.

Other local news

Newly elected officers of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** were Mrs. Lacy Lackey, president; Mrs. Richard Newman, first vice president; Mrs. Walter Hurst, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Fegley, secretary; Mrs. William Isinger, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Elmer Matthews, treasurer.

Joy Branyan, a DHS student, was practicing more than 15 hours a week to reach the finals of the Eastern Regional Junior Roller Skating Championships.

Another DHS junior, **Kathleen Fiedler**, qualified for the state Governor's School for the Arts. She competed in the creative writing field.

Recent **property transfers** included: 13 Cambridge Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$61,900; 560 Reeds Road, East Brandywine, \$120,000; 300 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$60,750; 90 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$65,000; 234 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$41,000; 3 Hunt Drive, West Bradford, \$68,000.

West Bradford supervisors voted to create the position of township manager, and administrative assistant Jack Hines was appointed to the new position.

Three busloads of fourth graders from Uwchlan **Hills School** spent a day on a class trip to New York City. Money to pay for trip was earned by selling poinsettias and 1,300 hoagies.

First place winners at a Science Fair at **St. Joseph's Catholic School** were: Kevin Conahan, intermediate grades; Matt Nelson, primary grades; and John Cristoff, junior high grades.

And **industrial arts students**, who were first place winners at the DHS Living Arts Weekend, were: John Lambert, graphic arts; Bill Yenser, offset printing; Ron Parker, silk screening; Roger Pitkin, sheet and art metal; Sabrina Vourvoulias, photography, one-artist show; Kathy Carson, portrait photography; Scott Loomis, general screening; Matt Montgomery, machine metalwork; Mike Talucci, foundry; Keith Grant, welding; Jeff Henry, drafting sketches; Charles Espenlaub, drafting of a crutch carrier; Rich Altringer, residential architecture; Steve Waldron, architecture design; Robert Craig, Electronics I; and Scott Donovan, Electronics II.

Holly DeCovny, 2-D emphasis, and Patty Davis, 3-D emphasis, were the one-person show winners at the **DHS Living Arts Weekend**.

Lauri Carcella pitched a no-hitter and she scored the Whippets only run, as the **DHS girls' softball team** beat Coatesville 1-0. The win enabled Downingtown to stay in a first place tie with Boyertown in the Ches-Mont League.

Downingtown Lions ran a soup kitchen in Depression years

A short time after the Downingtown Lions Club was organized in 1928, the organization took on one of its most important projects. That was during the Depression era, when an estimated free 12,000 meals were served to unemployed families at the Lions Food Center before 1932. The food center was operated out of a building, which was located where DNBFirst's main office parking lot now is located on Brandywine Avenue.

Staples such as potatoes and flour were donated by the government, and additional donations were made to the food center by the Red Cross and local groups. Evans "Doc" Miller, a retired machinist, worked at the center without pay, and Harry Berry cooked soup for the center every day at the Swan Hotel (across the street), recalled Dr. George Bousum, in an interview published in the May 11, 1978 edition of the *East Branch Citizen*.

Bousum, a Downingtown dentist, was interviewed at that time because he was the sole surviving charter member of the Downingtown Lions Club, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1978.

"All we asked of people who came to the center was that they give a day's work at 'the thicket'," explained Bousum. The thicket was an area on Pennsylvania Avenue, which was a swampy cow pasture with tall weeds and a small woods entangled with vines, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*. Today that area, with much effort, has evolved into Kerr Park.

Bousum also noted that the local Lions had their meetings over the years at the Downingtown Woman's Club, Bell Tavern, Messiah Lutheran and Central Presbyterian Churches, the Downingtown VFW, St. Anthony's Lodge and 10 Downing Street.

Besides Bousum, the club's 21 charter members were Dr. John Ammerell, Lewis Barker, Everett Hoopes, Fred Howe, Corb Hutchison, William Johnson, George Kilberry, John Leaman, Henry Lillard, William Ludwig, Joseph Miller, Robert Pannebaker, Charles Phillips, Philip Swank, Ernest Thomas and Arthur Walton.

Remember these West Lancaster Ave. businesses?

We were looking through the September 6, 1952 edition of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church parish calendar, donated to the Historical Society by Donna Capriotti, and found advertisements for these businesses in the west end of Downingtown which are no longer around:

- Katherine's Kiddies Korner, children's clothing, 212 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Downingtown Music Center, latest records and phonograph players, 137 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Theodore Pease, appliance repairs, 145 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Dailey's, paints, wallpapers, sanders for rent, 201 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Teeny Weeny Towne, children's apparel, 121 W. Lancaster Ave.

The calendar also noted that James Mascherino was president and Richard Valentino was treasurer of the Altar Boy Society.

Cub Pack 2's Tigers visited Historical Society

A dozen Tiger Cub Scouts from Pack 2, sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, and their parents visited Ashbridge House last week in order to meet their badge requirements. The boys particularly enjoyed touring our headquarters, seeing the old well inside the summer kitchen, and looking through our copies (some are 100 years old) of *American Boy* magazine, precursor of *Boys Life* magazine, published by the Boy Scouts of America. Other Scout groups who want visit our headquarters should contact us at:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

It was at Viaduct and W. Lancaster Avenues in Downingtown



Joe Bird is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above (provided by the Alert Fire Co.) as John Nolan's feed mill at Viaduct and West Lancaster Avenues in the borough. Downingtown Fire Department old timers aren't exactly sure when this fire occurred, but they suspect it was between 1947 and 1951. The lot at 100 W. Lancaster Ave., was to be the site of the First Baptist Church, which ultimately was built at the northwest corner of Manor and Lancaster Avenues. Then Vinton Philips bought the lot and established the Viaduct Roller Flour Mill there in 1889. In recent years, the building has been occupied by Bob Wagner's Mill Carpet, WeatherMaster Windows and CarQuest Auto Parts.

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

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Vol. 5, No. 20

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Local news items from 68 years ago

Noted below are news items about the Downingtown area, which were originally published in local newspapers in December 1946.

Four Downingtown residents were among the six people who died in **one of Chester County's worst vehicular accidents**, when a small coupe collided with an oil tank-truck on

Route 322, just below the borough's southern border, on Dec. 11, 1946. Killed in the horrific crash were borough residents Donald Jameson, Vincent Zinni, and Carmen and Violet Marino, and Fred Pizzi, of West Chester, and James Puia, of Ambler.

Anyone recall these long-gone, local businesses: Don Forbes' **Downingtown Beverage Distributing Co.**, rear of 131 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown; **Odenweller's Restaurant** on Route 30 in Thorndale; or when **Lineinger's** in Whitford, which in addition to being a fuel oil and coal dealer, also sold Purina Cow Chow to local dairy farmers?

Businesses on West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, arranged for a sound system to be temporarily installed on the roof of **Greenleaf's Pharmacy**, so neighbors and shoppers could hear Christmas carols.

More than 700 youngsters from the borough and five surrounding township schools enjoyed seeing a professional stage play, presented in the DHS auditorium, which was sponsored and paid for the **Downingtown Lions Club**.

Since each of the towns' draft boards were no longer as busy as they had been during World War II, the **Selective Service Boards** in West Chester, Coatesville and Downingtown were merged and re-located to Downingtown's Borough Hall.

DHS gridders, named to the 1946 All-County team by sports editors of Chester County's three daily newspapers, were: Dick Dague, first team halfback; and Joseph Doran, second team guard, and Tom DiOttavio, second team halfback. Whippets given honorable mention recognition were: John Fleck, end; Ray Kipp, tackle; Duane Chesney, guard; Vince Massimini, center; and Joe Capriotti, back.

Officers of the **Upper Uwchlan School Board** included Wayne Pollock, president; Rhys Carpenter, vice president; Ray Woodland, secretary; and Stephen Moore, treasurer.

Elected as officers of the Alpha Bible Class of the Sunday School at **Downingtown Baptist Church** were Mrs. Robert Laird, president; Anna Hall, vice president; Mrs. Frank Smedley, secretary; and Mrs. Walter Fisher, treasurer.

After losing a 19-13 lead at halftime, the **DHS boys' basketball team** rallied to beat West Chester's St. Agnes Catholic High School 37-35. Last-minute field goals by Dick Dague and Dan Barrow enabled coach Hank Goudie's Whippets to gain the win over the Stags.

Belle Hutchison, president, and Robert Ash, vice president were elected to lead the **Downingtown School Board**.

Frank Swarner was elected president of the Washington Camp No. 338, **Patriotic Order of Sons of the America**, Downingtown. Also elected were Allen Harris, vice president; Thomas Philips, master of forms; Spencer Windle, recording secretary; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Gilbert Cox, financial secretary; Percy Windle, conductor; Frank Bicking, inspector; Allen Keim, guard; and Allen Harris, trustee.

Officers of the Busy Bees group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Betty Hope, president; Mary Jane Detterline, vice president; Helen Nelms, secretary; Mary Wagner, treasurer; and Virginia Thrasher, publicity.

Local Masons, installed as officers at the **Williamson Lodge** in Downingtown, included Robert Piersol, worshipful master; Edward Towson, senior warden; John McCausland, junior warden; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Arthur Walton, secretary; Edward McCausland, representative to the Grand Lodge; and Arthur Glauner and Edgar Griffith, trustees.

More than 90 World War II vets and their guests were invited to the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** for a turkey dinner, prepared and served under the supervision of Dorothy McClure, and a program arranged by Webster Hilton. Arthur Phillips, who served as toastmaster, called upon

Leo Hamilton, Downingtown's burgess; Harry Elston, American Legion commander; and Henry Thomas, VFW commander; to offer remarks. The evening concluded with dancing.

School Board officers for the coming year at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were John Morris, president; Robert Cathcart, vice president; Earl Spellman, second vice president; Mrs. Ralph Wallace, corresponding secretary; Charles Busby, assistant secretary; Betty Keehn, recording secretary; Evelyn Fling, treasurer; Mrs. George McAllister, temperance superintendent; Mrs. Wilmer Kennedy, missionary superintendent; Mrs. Leedom Mercer, home department; Mrs. Harold Robinson, music; and Mrs. George Lied, cradle roll. And men in the congregation started remodeling the church basement, so it can be used for Sunday School classes and as a recreation room.

Standouts at Old East Ward School in 1974

Linda Lefko donated to the Historical Society a copy of the Old East Ward School's 1974 yearbook, when the school on East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was a sixth grade center.

Standouts in the class that year were: Alan Dawson and Nancy Deane, best citizens; Suzanne Pike and Chris Fisher, most courteous; Song Hagel and Barry DiLibero, friendliest; Eddie Novak and Jean Sciarretta, most athletic; Scott Kohler and Sandy Williams, most likely to succeed; Laura Boryta and Robert Klinger, best musicians; Sandy Williams and Mike Jacobs, best all-around students; Jane Kaster and Craig Otto, best dressed; Pam Paulson and Carl Hurst, hardest workers; Ricky Betres and Diane DeGezelle, wittiest; Susan Widen and Robert Forrest quietest; Nick Ursini and Barbara Berry, best artists; and Cindy Stewart and Philip Taraschi, most mischievous.

Editor's Note: We have many DHS yearbooks in our Archives, but few from elementary, junior highs or middle schools in the Downingtown School District. Please contact us at Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, if you wish to donate yearbooks from your early school days.

Frank Manetta was right about the site of the fire

Frank Manetta remembers one important fact that was left out of the May 8 Hist-O-Gram, when we noted that Joe Bird had correctly identified the building in the Where & What Is This? photo. Yes, the building in the photo was the Feed Mill at the intersection of Viaduct and West Lancaster Avenues in Downingtown.

However, insisted Manetta in several emails he sent to us, that the building on fire and not visible in the smoke when the photo was taken in the fall of 1947, was the **Field Tire Co.** The tire firm was then located, behind the Feed Mill, at 2 Viaduct Avenue. Also south of the Feed Mill on Viaduct Avenue, and next to the Field Tire Co. at that time, was the Kulp and Gordon truck terminal.

Manetta apparently was one of the many students from the nearby West Ward School who watched the tire firm burn to the ground that day.

As a result of the devastating fire, the tire store was re-located to a building on Stuart Avenue, which had once been the Lincoln Theatre, where one-reel comedy movies were shown in the early 20th Century.

When an Air Force jet crashed into Worthington orchard in Uwchlan

A trainer jet plane “crashed with a thunderous explosion” into the 10-acre Worthington orchard in Uwchlan on May 18, 1950, according to the following day’s edition of the *Pottstown Mercury*. The T-33 plane narrowly missed the home, garage and water tower on the Worthington property. When it crashed, the plane created a hole that was about 5 feet deep and 10 feet in diameter. None of the Worthington family members were at home when the crash occurred.

The plane’s two fliers parachuted to safety at 11,000 feet when the plane ran out of fuel on a routine flight between Indianapolis and Langley Field, VA. The fliers stayed overnight in the Mansion House hotel in West Chester, and then returned to the orchard property with state police the next day.

Neighbors said the plane was on fire as it streaked earthward. A fire in part of the plane was extinguished by the Lionville Fire Co. The day after the crash, the Worthington property was guarded by U.S. Air Force personnel, to ward off souvenir hunters until the plane’s remnants could be retrieved by the Air Force.

Fred Majka, retired math teacher and Marshallton Methodist’s office manager, sent us news clippings related to the plane crash.

‘Anti-progressives’ dominated Downingtown until early 20th Century

Construction of a brick building on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Wallace Avenues in Downingtown was underway, and the structure would soon be occupied by the recently chartered Downingtown Iron Works, according to an article in the Feb. 22, 1913 edition of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The “Philadelphia capitalists” backing the new steel-plate fabrication firm were Louis Zimmerman, Parke Plank and Harold Abele, noted the *Inquirer*.

However, “going back a decade, it is learned that the progress of Downingtown was hindered by a number of anti-progressives who seemed to control the town,” claimed the reporter who wrote the news story. The article went on to say that the anti-progressives had successfully opposed (in the late 18th Century) a plan to locate the Chester County courthouse in what now is part of the 200 block of West Lancaster Avenue in the borough, “because of the fear that an undesirable class of people would settle” in the town.

And in the 19th Century, “the introduction of manufacturing enterprises was opposed on the grounds that there would be too much noise and bustle, and that the splendor of landscape and the serenity of lives of the anti-progressives would be disturbed,” continued the article.

However, “men with modern ideas” gained control in the borough during the early 20th Century. And a Board of Trade (precursor of the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce) was established in 1909, the year the borough celebrated the 50th anniversary of its 1859 incorporation, and the village was no longer a subservient part of rural East Caln Township.

When Downingtown had been part of East Caln, the township’s ruling class, primarily farmers who had no interest in spending tax dollars on building wooden sidewalks in the village, so the upstarts’ boots would no longer be muddied up as they walked through the village’s growing commercial district.

The Board of Trade’s officers back then were Joseph Johnson, president; Herbert Ash, secretary; and M.S. Broadt, treasurer.

In addition to helping with establishing the Iron Works in the borough, the Board of Trade fostered the 1911 establishment of the Watco Knitting Co. in Downingtown, which produced underwear. Several years later, however, the knitting company moved to Phoenixville.

Another sign of progress in the borough, touted by the Board of Trade, was a 12-grade, 14-classroom school (later known as the West Ward School), which was built for \$90,000 in 1910 on West Lancaster Avenue, on a site near where Messiah Lutheran Church is now located.

Officials responsible for the borough's improvements, according to the article, were: Thomas Pedrick, burgess (mayor); F. J. McGraw, president of Borough Council; Dr. L. T. Bremmerman, school board president; and Guyon Miller, fire marshal.

It's at 1309 North Bailey Road in Caln Township



Donna Kneisly is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the house at 1309 North Bailey Road in Caln Township.

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

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www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html. **Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to send us information or make a comment, contact us at: Info@DowningtownAreaHistoricalSociety.org.**

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- Contact: vance_usher@netzero.com, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

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Flower Sale

Marshalltown United Methodist Church's Men's Flower Sale will begin Friday, May 9 and will continue through Wednesday, May 28. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

East Brandywine Baptist's history

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the history of East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 18.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet Room for rent

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

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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 Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 21

May 22, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

Local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items were originally published by local newspapers in the early part of June 1962.

With 137 seniors, DHS had its largest **graduating class**. Officers of the Class of 1962 were Ed McDermott, president; Jim Yamshak, vice president; Joyce Stern, secretary; and Lynn Barron, treasurer. The class's honor students were Lynn Barron, Elizabeth Kelly, William Meroney, James Pillagalli, Marie Pollock, Joanna Pope, Mark Shrader, Helen Simmons, Donna Thompson, Paula Tweed and Stephen Wilson. Award and scholarship winners included: Lynn Barron and Robert Shank, DHS Alumni Assn.; and Donna Thompson, Downingtown Area

Education Assn. Following the commencement, a dance for the new grads was held at St. Anthony's Lodge.

Forty eighth graders graduated from **St. Joseph's Catholic School**. Awards given at commencement included Nancy Cassel and George Hilton, highest general averages; Timothy Terramin, Outstanding Catholic Boy; and Theresa Dougherty, Outstanding Catholic Girl;

Cubmaster Joseph Fennelly presented pins to Mark Dreibelbis, Marlon Brubaker and Steve Massimini, who are members of **Cub Pack 2**. Those who earned badges were Joel Swisher, Eric Dreibelbis, Jimmy Jenkins, James Conner, Frank Bishop, Jimmy Fenelly, Jack Wasmuth, Stuart Pollock, Jack Leonard, Larry Patrizio, Palmer Raysor and David Radcliffe.

Members of the safety patrol at **Brandywine Wallace School** who were taken to a Phillies game included Irwin Williamson, Chris Pierson, Richard Haas, John Pollock, Fred Swavely, Shirley Sorenson and Dennis Davidson. Directors of the school's Savings Stamp program—Mrs. Jay Lammey, Mrs. Thomas Peazzoni and Mrs. Edwin Johnson—reported that over \$2,500 in stamps and savings bonds had been purchased by students. New officers of the school's PTA were William Wilson, president; Gerald Whiteman, vice president; Shirley Feters, treasurer; and Mrs. Edwin Johnson.

Officers installed to lead the **Marshallton PTA** were Mrs. Joseph Fell, president; Mrs. Joseph Kirkner, vice president; Mrs. Charles Case, secretary; and Mrs. Warren Rissell, treasurer.

Mrs. Edward Robinson was elected senior regent of the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown. Also elected were Mrs. Robert Moore, junior regent; Mrs. Thomas Moffatt, junior graduate regent; Mrs. Byron Dawson, chaplain; Mrs. Ashton Lammey, recorder; and Mrs. Willard Marsh, treasurer.

Mrs. Belle Murray was elected president of the **American Legion Auxiliary** in Downingtown. Others elected were Mrs. William Keen, vice president; Mrs. Paul McCombs, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Thornton, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Esther Williams, historian; Anna Dougherty, chaplain; and Mrs. Alford Nichols, sergeant-at-arms.

The staff of the Vacation Bible School at **Central Presbyterian Church** included Jane Bierley, kindergarten group; Betty Buckwalter, primary group; Jane Mitman, junior group; and Mrs. Leo Hamilton, coordinator.

Girl Scout Troop 83 conducted a fly-up. Girls who were promoted from Brownies were Brenda Joyce Murphy, Grace DiBerardinis, Rosemary Gazzerro, Susan Mento and Kitty Martin.

Kids who participated in a contest at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, so they could earn \$25 each toward a week at a Christian camp, were Doug Habecker, Donna Peterman, Janet and Thomas Haas, Judy and Diane Shirk, Turie Hayes, Gilbert Cox, Joy Emery and Sandra Mattison.

Newly elected officers of the **Pickering Valley Woman's Club** were Mrs. Frank Gottier, president; Mrs. Forrest Gottier, vice president; Mrs. James Summers, recording secretary; Mrs. Ralph Emery, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Robert Feters, treasurer. The nominating committee was comprised of Mrs. Samuel Acker, Mrs. Jacob Dewees and Mrs. Kenneth Wheatley.

Officers elected to lead the **Ladies of St. Joseph's Catholic Church** were Mrs. Philip Lyons, president; Mrs. Joseph Driscoll, vice president; Mrs. Ernest Panetti, secretary; Mrs. Charles Snyder, secretary; and Mrs. Josephina Valentino, treasurer.

DHS Class of 1932 photo, taken in their junior year



This photo of the DHS Class of 1932, taken in their junior year, was one of the items Thomas Brookover saved from his youth. That's him, wearing glasses, in the middle of the three guys pictured in the upper left hand corner.

Donations include 1932 graduation articles from *The Archive*

Tom and Bill Brookover recently donated numerous printed materials to the Historical Society. Among those items, collected by their father, Thomas Brookover, was a copy of the June 2, 1932 edition of *The Downingtown News*, a weekly newspaper, which competed with *The Archive* in the Downingtown area for several years. A prominent citizen, the elder Brookover was an executive for the Downingtown Paper Co. and served on the school board for many years.

The lead story in that week's issue was about 64 students graduating from DHS in 1932. That was the last class to complete their high school years in the building (opened in 1910; later known as the West Ward School) on West Lancaster Avenue. The following year, the Junior High and Senior High students attended the new school on Manor Avenue, which now is the STEM Academy.

The article noted that the two-day ceremonial process started with the 50th annual Class Day, which drew a capacity crowd to the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue on the evening before the next night's commencement. It included a reading of the class's history and passing of the Senior Mantle robe on to Donald Schultz, Class of 1933 president.

And advancement exercises for grammar school students were conducted in the high school auditorium the night after the commencement.

The five students in the class who had the highest, four-year, academic average were: Mary Bareford, 3.97; Thomas Brookover, 3.90; Lillian Bareford, 3.896; Virginia McMichael, 3.892; and Charles Elston, 3.71.

It was noted in the story that members of the class had decorated the grave of classmate Edwin Mendenhall, who had died in a plane crash near Marshallton on August 9, 1931.

According to the 1932 *Cuckoo* (the DHS yearbook's title back then), the class colors were old rose and grey, since the concept of school colors (e.g. blue and gold) had yet to evolve. And revenues realized from a bake sale, two dances and the senior class play—also offered at the Roosevelt Theatre—were used to defray the costs of the class trip to Washington, DC.

That week's *Archive* also included:

- An ad for Charles Furlong's grocery store at Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street in Downingtown. Specials were: a 5-pound bag of sugar, 19 cents; center-cut pork chops, 23 cents a pound; 12 pounds of "pastry" flour, 27 cents; and a 2-gallon can of motor oil, 98 cents.

- Ninety children received their First Communion at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

- Members of the East Brandywine School Board and the Guthriesville High School teachers held a surprise reception for Victor Jochen, the school's principal, and his unnamed, new bride. After George North, school board president, extended greetings, Hazel Laird sang several songs, accompanied by pianist Mrs. Francis Helm. Then a play—starring Mrs. Joseph Harner, Mrs. Wayne Gray and Ernest Philips—was put on.

- Downingtown's baseball team, which played in the Chester County League, had new uniforms. The backs of the new togs included the names of the firms and businesses which donated money to buy the uniforms. The donors were Charles Walker, coal and lumber; Swan Hotel; Deputy's Barber Shop; Chandler Roberts, insurance; Edward McClure, Motor Service Co; Clarence Miller, barber; Lineinger's coal yard; the Downingtown News; Ray Sheeler, Wallace Motors; James Grassie, Ford dealer; Loyal Order of the Moose; Morris Steifel, Roosevelt Theatre; Groff's News Agency; and Hope's Garage.

- Samuel Banghart, sole surviving member of the Downingtown's GAR Post for Civil War vets; 10 Spanish-American War vets; the Charles F. Moran American Legion Post and the American Legion Auxiliary were the honored guests at the Memorial Day service at Downingtown Methodist Church.

- Children who sold more than 1,000 poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary were honored for their efforts. First prize, a pen and pencil set, for selling the most poppies went to Mary Louise Sheehan. A fountain pen, second prize, was given to Betty Baen, and a 1-pound box of candy, third prize, was won by Betty Forbes.

- Free physical exams were done on 26 pre-school children by local physicians and dentists. The turnout was a little low because some kids had been quarantined with chicken pox or whooping cough. Nurses who assisted with the exams were Lillie Finn, Ruth John, Jane Guthrie Davison and Louella Rimel.

- There was an ad for the next month's Welfare Carnival (during the Depression era), sponsored by the American Legion and the Downingtown Lions Club.

- The American Legion sponsored the first annual Field Day at Kerr Park. Over 100 boys competed in the track and field events, which were supervised by DHS coaches Francis Tweed and William McAlpine. John Moyer and Lawrence Haas were standouts in their divisions.

Items from the *West Ward School News* in 1947

Among the many neat items Mike Mento recently donated to the Historical Society was the May 28, 1947 edition of the *West Ward School News*. Tidbits from that issue included:

- Fifth and sixth graders who starred in the operetta “Taffy Ann” included Dottie Kipp, Bill Bousum, Doris Cox, Clinton Law, Jo Ann Forbes, Nelson Walton, Francis Petrella, Nancy Brookover, Fay Bousum, Bob Goudie, Frank Manetta, Shirley Kay, John Shoemaker, Connie Hamilton, Patty Stringer and Helen Jane Henry.

- Officers of the school’s Mothers Club were Mrs. Clinton Law, president; Mrs. Francis Tweed, vice president; Mrs. Edward Towson, secretary; and Mrs. Herbert Ash, treasurer.

- Fourth graders who earned good penmanship certificates were Doris Katherman, Eileen Higgins, George Forbes, Sue Towers, Sally Johnson, Louise DiPietro, Patty Sciarretta, Helen Spence and Claudette Rimel.

- Those who didn’t miss a day of school that year were Ralph Dunmore, Tommy Hughes, Janet Bowman, Gerald Cozzone, Philomena DiBerardinis, Joan Hughes, Kathleen D’Attilio, Anthony Malone, George Coulter, Theresa Ciarlone, Charlotte DiGiovantonio, Dorothy Kipp, Charles Campbell, Raymond Thompson, Annabelle Warnick, Charles Wagner, Jack Francella, Barbara Wilkinson, Geraldine Butcher, Herbert Lee, Roy Hummel and Jean Mercer.

Commuting to and from Philadelphia by train in 1869

Back in 1869, the Chester Valley Railroad offered commuter service between Philadelphia and Downingtown, according to an article by Robert Geasey, in the July 2000 edition of the *History Quarterly*, published by the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.

Commuting by rail meant you were in for a long day, but travelling to and from Philadelphia in one day, by horse and buggy, 145 years ago wasn’t a piece of cake either.

Geasey wrote: “Business was fairly good. A schedule from 1869 shows three trains a day, each direction, between Philadelphia and Downingtown, with 16 stops along the way. A single passenger train left Downingtown at 6 AM, returning from Philadelphia at 4:30 PM, clearly a commuter train. In fact, the schedule advertises commutation, school and excursion tickets at reduced rates. The travel time was 2-1/2 hours. Perhaps this was the start of suburban living in the Great Valley?”

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Detailed maps of Chester County communities in 1883

If you're interested in seeing late 19th Century maps of boroughs and townships in Chester County, check out http://ancestortracks.com/Chester_resources.html, which provides *Breou's Official Series of Farm Maps, Chester County*, published by W.H. Kirk in 1883.

It's on the Devereux School campus on Boot Road in East Caln



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above (taken by Mike Dunn) as one of the buildings on the campus of the Devereux School at 600 Boot Road in East Caln Township.

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Vol. 5, No. 22

May 29, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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More local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items noted below were originally published by local newspapers in the latter part of June 1962:

Tom Brookshier, defensive back for the Philadelphia Eagles, was flown, via the WCAU-TV helicopter, to make an appearance at the **Downingtown Farmers' Market**.

Since there was significant growth projected in **West Bradford Township**, the Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board decided to investigate the possibility of buying land so it might build an addition to the Marshallton School.

Captains Walter Peazzonni of the Alert Fire Co. and William Wilmot of the Minquas Fire Co. were named publicity directors for the **Downingtown Fire Department**. Other members of the publicity committee were Chief Hallan Usher, Assistant Chiefs Al Peterman and Dan Zittle, and Lieutenants Charles Broomell and Arthur Phillips.

More than 300 people turned out for the dedication of **Caln Township's** new municipal building, which cost \$38,000 to build.

Mrs. Kenneth Scott, a second grade teacher at **East Ward School**, was slated to begin training to be a member of the Peace Corps in the African nation of the Ivory Coast.

Brownies Linda Slater, Selma Ortlip, Marta Kelsey and Ann Roeder were received into **Girl Scout Troop 166** at a fly-up ceremony at Fairview Presbyterian Church, Glenmoore. And Brownies who flew up into Troop 314, Glenmoore, included Carol Ann Burkey, Robin deRussy, Marjorie Munson, Ruth Ann Givler, Patty Pease and Lois Slater.

Ben Valocchi was installed as president of the **Downingtown Lions Club**. Other new officers were Warren Strawsnyder, first vice president; Charles Beamsderfer, second vice president; Thomas Courtlessa, third vice president; Joseph Mento, secretary; William Woodruff, treasurer; Don Jones, tail twister; Ray Jones, assistant tail twister; Thomas Roberts, lion tamer; Philip Manno, assistant lion tamer; and directors Horace Rodgers, Maurie Davis, Wilbert Smith, and Bradford Ferguson.

Some of the attractions at the **West Bradford Firemen's Fair** were tug-of-war competitions between area fire companies, music by Warren Mercer and his Royal Ramblers and the Lukens Band, and fireworks on the last night. Members of the **Lionville Fire Co.** team, which won the tug-of-war competition, were George Ruark, John Trego, William Isinger, Sonny Trego, Charles Young, Lewis Dewees, Walter Trego, Francis Hill, Robert Suloff, Robert Ruark, James Pinkerton, Fred Schlimme and Harold Trego.

Some 600 employees and guests of the **Downingtown Iron Works** attended the 14th annual picnic, held at Rocky Springs Park, near Lancaster. The contest winners included: peanut scramble: Renee Emondi, Donna Russell, Jeff Moore and Tyna Farina; balloon push race: Louise Selter, Betty Unruh, Kenny Sigle and Barry Piersol; ping pong ball hitting: Kathy Lamb, Barbara Gay, Mike Pollock and Rich DiEugenio; golf ball hitting: W.I. Pollock and Bob Piersol; egg tossing: Mrs. Paul Givler, Peggy Givler, Charles Hepner and Les Sheeler.

Lionville's Community Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers included Mrs. Clair Koser, Linda Davis, Mrs. Donald Willoughby, Mrs. Charles Williman, Mrs. John Hensler, Mrs. Donald Klaebel, Mrs. Elroy Buttermann, Mrs. Roy Gulliford, Mrs. Norman Davis, Dolly Buttermann, Mrs. Richard Taylor, Nancy Martin, Mrs. Donald Corneal and Mrs. James Young.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 252's** Chipmunk Patrol, who earned a second class badge, were Kate Hallman, Mary Ann Leinweber, Ann Wachsmuth, Nancy Sload, Cynthia Myers and Cynthia van Buren.

Brownies from Troop 210, who flew up to the **Girl Scout Troop in Marshallton**, included Mollie Anderson, Joan Keeler, Patty McLearn, Gwen Swarner, Sheryl Warner and Virginia Young.

Masons Honor Downingtown's First Responders



The Williamson Masonic Lodge of Downingtown honored Downingtown's First Responders last week, and presented a check to each of the following units: the Alert Fire Co., the Minquas Fire Co., the Minquas EMS and the Downingtown Police Department.

Names of local Spanish American War volunteers found

In last week's Hist-O-Gram, we mentioned that 10 unnamed Downingtown area veterans of the Spanish American War attended a special service at Downingtown Methodist Church in 1932.

Since many of you don't recall much about that war, here are some basics facts, according to the Smithsonian's American History Museum's website:

"America went to war against Spain to free Cuba from Spanish domination. But the war provided the United States an opportunity to seize overseas possessions and begin building an American empire. After ousting Spain from Cuba, the United States seized Puerto Rico. And subsequently it annexed the Philippines, Samoa, Guam and Wake Island, followed by Hawaii."

Although it really was only a 10-week war in 1898, it officially lasted from 1898 to 1902. There were 306,760 U.S. servicemen involved, and 2,446 of them died in combat.

Noted below is a list of 20 Downingtown area vets who served during that war, according to the *Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish American War*, published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1901. Most of the local volunteers were members of the Sixth Regiment, which was mustered into service in May 1898. The regiment was primarily comprised of men who were living in southeastern Pennsylvania when they signed up. The unit was mustered out of service in September 1898, and was not involved in combat.

The volunteers from the Downingtown area were: George W. Berkenheiser, Liberty Browne, Horace S. Carpenter, Preston H. Darlington, George Donley, James W. Dorat, Charles E. Dripps, Harvey E. Good, William H. Graham, John E. Hamilton, Wilson S. Hamilton, William L. Lammy, Charles L. Lightcap, Ernest S. Looriger, Leon D. Lyster, John F. Martin, Alexander H. McCausland, William McConnell, John McFarland and James C. Roberts.

Who wrote the words to the DHS West alma mater?

We received a call from DHS West, requesting information on who wrote the words of the DHS alma mater. Frankly, we don't know when that alma mater was established at DHS, and that's why we're seeking your help.

An alma mater is an educational institution's official song. The term means bountiful mother in Latin. However, we suspect that many DHS students don't know all the words to their alma mater, because, like the Latin language, alma maters have lost some of their luster over the years.

Doug Bennett, former DHS West band director, tells us about the high school alma mater, "The tune is actually the Russian National anthem. I would think its origin would be a Russia folk tune or nationalistic song prior to becoming the Russian anthem. This tune can also be found woven into the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. It's also the same tune for WCU (West Chester State University) and probably countless other schools."

If you have information on the person who wrote the lyrics to the DHS alma mater or related info, please send to us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

It's at 1234 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville



Donna Kneisly is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above (taken by Mike Dunn) as the house at 1234 Horseshoe Pike, across from Stauffer's Supermarket in Guthriesville in East Brandywine Township. Donna said she immediately recognized it because her Uncle Joe Filoromo's family once lived there.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, June 1

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

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

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Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 5, No. 23

June 5, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Interesting local news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of June 1978.

Downingtown's Borough Council voted unanimously to fire **Robin Harp** from the borough police force, after he admitted he had shot a cat owned by Mrs. Leonard Cassenta, 438 Grant Ave., Downingtown.

The U.S. House of Representative's proposal to provide a tax credit of up to \$250 per year for tuition-paying students drew mixed reactions from **Downingtown school officials**. For example, school director Norma Smith said, "the private and parochial schools will skim many of our best students." However, Jonathan Kulp, another board member who also was on the faculty of a private school, claimed, "I don't believe this will be a major blow against the public school system." And superintendent of schools Dr. Charles Micken opined, "We would face a mass exodus of many able students."

Recent **property transfers** included: 1104 Worthington Dr., Uwchlan, \$52,762; 1571 Kelly Ann Dr., West Bradford, \$67,000; 136 Woodland Cir., East Caln, \$89,800; 501 Grant Ave., Downingtown, \$38,000; 8 Meadow Ln., Upper Uwchlan, \$61,000; and 110 Wildbriar Rd., East Brandywine. \$66,885.

Installed as officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, Downingtown, were Mary Rita Schiltz, president; Rosemary Brady, vice president; Sue Golden, recording secretary; Janet Alway, treasurer; and Sara Irwin, corresponding secretary.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who attended a camporee were Dave Mundy, Larry Beaver, Chris Pond, Doug Bullock, Chris Giblin, Chris Cincotta, Brian Place and Kurt Kessler.

Officers elected by members of the Garden Class of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** were Mrs. Elmer Hartwick, chairman; Mrs. Edward Burghart, vice chairman; Mrs. Joseph Taylor, recording secretary; Mrs. James Strausser, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William Edgerton, treasurer.

Specials at **Talucci's Butcher Shop**, located in Four J's Mini Mall on East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, included boneless hams, \$2.09/lb.; and Delmonico steaks, \$1.89/lb.

Members of the **Lionville Fire Co.** who received service pins at the annual banquet were Harry Ruth, 50 years, and Carl Ruth, 25 years. Rick Gilbert was named firefighter of the year.

The **DHS softball team** clinched its second consecutive Ches-Mont League championship by beating Boyertown 13-5. Whippet coach John Davidson said shortstop Lorraine Spadaro was the star of the game, robbing Bear hitters of three likely hits.

John Chilla and Kathy Herion were named the **outstanding athletes** at the annual DHS sports banquet. Herion starred on the lacrosse, basketball and field hockey teams. Chilla was captain of the baseball squad, co-captain of the football team, and the basketball team's tri-captain.

Fred Della Motta won three first places as the **Lionville Junior High track team** won the Northern Junior Ches-Mont title for the second straight year.

Members of the **DHS lacrosse team** who made All Ches-Mont were Ronnie Della Motta and Dottie Dunn, first team, and Anne Kennedy, second team.

Leaders of the **Downingtown Girls Softball League** were steaming after the Downingtown Little League turned down their request to use the Little League field for the Softball League playoffs.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Horace Schanley, president; John Canning, first vice president; David Swindin, second vice president; Fred Longenecker, third vice president; Bob Bowker, secretary; and Bob Shoffner, treasurer.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who went on a 36-mile canoe trip down the Brandywine were Neal and Todd Bowser, Bill Jemison, Ken Klunk, Chuck and Keith McCann, John Sanner, Charles Whiteman, Chuck Woolford and Jeff Young.

Officers elected by the members of **St. James Church's** Episcopal Women were Jean Revucky, president; Dixie Gailey, vice president; Harriet MacDonald, secretary; and Anne Buell, treasurer.

Downingtown Methodist Church's building committee included: chairman Bill Brookover, Len Kosatka, C.R. Schollenberger, Lee Bradley, Fran Swisher, John Hamilton, Charles Espenlaub, Dot Sykes, Charles Glass, Gilbert Algier, Jeff Stevens and Rev. Richard Wolfe.

Elected as leaders of the Hope-Twos at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were Ray and Dana Neyman, president; Ron and Lorraine Holt, vice president; Ed and Sue Young, secretary; and Ron and Diane Langford, treasurer.

DHS alma mater mystery continues

We're still not sure who wrote the lyrics to the DHS alma mater, but we found a big clue in the February 1922 edition of *The Cuckoo*, a pamphlet-sized publication put out by DHS students several times a year. Launched in February 1919, *The Cuckoo's* content in the early days, was a hybrid of a student newspaper and a literary magazine, including several pages of jokes. In a few years, it evolved into a typical high school yearbook. In the mid-1950s, DHS finally changed the title of the yearbook to *Our Year*.

The March 1922 issue contained a brief article on the bottom of page 15, which was headlined "Hail! Downingtown High School." Although the article included the lyrics of DHS alma mater, there was no mention that they were the words to the alma mater.

There were two other bits of relevant information in the article: The Russian National Anthem was the music the lyrics were to be sung to, and the letters "C.C.S." were printed underneath the lyrics.

Since many articles in *The Cuckoo* had the author's initials below the text, we searched through every issue published in the early 1920s, but we couldn't find one instance where a student's or teacher's name matched up with the letters "C.C.S."

So, we'll continue the quest to determine the lyricist of the DHS alma mater. If you wish to help us solve this mystery, please contact us via Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Since there have been suspicions that the alma mater's lyrics were "tweaked" over the years, here's the original version from the February 1922 *Cuckoo*:

*Hail! Downingtown High School,
To thee we sing,
And to thine altars our praises we bring
Love, truth and noble deeds
Have won for thee great fame.
Hail! Downingtown! We laud thy fair name.*

*Loyal may we ever be
Through all our days,
And of thy tireless work we'll shout endless praise
Thy love and faith have filled
Our hearts with noble aim.
Hail! Downingtown! We laud thy fair name.*

C.C.S.

Ladies charted a delicious course at The Historic Ship Inn

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen Meacham. She and her husband, Ron, won the grand prize—meals at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the “A Taste of Chester County” restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society this past fall.

Where do five ladies go to have lunch? The Historic Ship Inn in Exton, where else? The Ship Inn, built in 1796 by John Bowen, was one of the earliest public houses that met the needs of travelers along the Lancaster Turnpike. The original sign bore the picture of a ship for the benefit of many travelers who could not read or who did not speak English. All could recognize the “sign of the ship”.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, The Ship Inn charged stagecoach passengers and its aristocratic clientele a premium of 31 and 1/4 cents per meal. But regulars, including the Lafayette Rangers of the 143rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia, were charged less, probably an early type of a frequent stay program.

Our modern day lunches were served on elegantly set tables in one of their intimate dining rooms. Several ladies chose The Crispy Jumbo Shrimp, covered in a batter of coconut and macadamia nuts, and served with a sweet and hot apricot glaze. I chose the Southwestern Chicken Eggroll, a unique combination of grilled chicken, corn, black beans and cheddar cheese, wrapped in a tortilla and served with mustard and tomato salsa sides. All were deliciously prepared.

Our meals were complemented nicely by a selection of wines and we ended with scrumptious desserts including apple pie with warm vanilla sauce, white and dark chocolate mousse and English toffee pudding, with mocha ice cream.

A sweet sailing experience was had by all at The Ship Inn. And we want to thank The Ship Inn for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.

Graphic evidence of the painful process of school consolidation

The 1961 DHS yearbook—which focused on the first class to graduate from the high school which had opened in September 1960 and now is DHS West—indirectly offers some interesting information.

Yes, it was a different world 53 years ago, when there were only 123 DHS graduates that year, and the plans for the new high school had included a cattle shed, to be used by the Agriculture majors.

But what we found most intriguing were two group photos in the yearbook. One photo is of the Joint Area High School Board, comprised of 38 representatives of the eight municipalities that are still part of the Downingtown Area School District today, and the other photo is of the 26 teachers on the DHS faculty in 1961.

Hmmm, 38 bosses for 26 underlings? Too many cooks, perhaps?

That pictorial disparity shows that the consolidation of school districts in Pennsylvania, back in the early 1960s, was a slow and sometimes painful transitional process, because many leaders of small communities lacked enthusiasm for the state-mandated mergers.

Despite all the rural townships' anxiety back then, about losing local control of their local schools, they seem to have succeeded.

It's at 515 Broad Run Road, West Bradford Twp.



We were absolutely crushed when we realized that not one of our readers recognized that the location of the 18th Century farmhouse in the photo above (taken by Mike Dunn) as 515 Broad Run Road in the southern end of West Bradford Township. But we'll get over it.....somehow.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Mac n Cheese Cook-Off

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club is sponsoring a Mac n Cheese Cook-Off in the gazebo area of Kerr Park, Downingtown, from noon until 4 M Sunday, June 8.

Ice Cream Social

The Friends of Martin's Tavern will host an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 8, from 1 to 4 PM at the Marshallton Blacksmith Shop on Strasburg Road. Activities include old-fashion ice cream making, a historic blacksmith demonstration by craftsman Ben Rohrback and more. Family fun for all ages. For information on this and other FOMT events, visit www.martinstavern.org.

Library Groundbreaking

The Downingtown Library will have a groundbreaking ceremony at 9 AM Tuesday, June 10, at its new location--the former Micken Building at 122 Wallace Ave., Downingtown. For more information, please contact Karen Miller at klmiller@ccls.org

Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is sponsoring a Community Festival on the church grounds on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The festival will be held 6-10 PM Tuesday, June 17 through Thursday, June 19, and 6-11 PM on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. The attractions include rides for children and adults, live bands, games and food. For discounted ride deals, access <http://stjoesfestival.com> or the church's Facebook page. Also, there will be fireworks Friday night, June 20.

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Vol. 5, No. 24

June 12, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Nicknames story led local news 36 years ago

Noted below are excerpts from a story about the nicknames of residents of the Johnstontown section of Downingtown, which was the lead article in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of June 1978.

“It’s embarrassing,” admitted Jack Helm, the Downingtown Postmaster who had grown up in the borough. You’d think Helm would have recognized the names of most of the people from the Johnstontown section of the borough when their obituaries were published in local newspapers.

However, Helm acknowledged that he occasionally missed the funerals of Johnstown residents, whom he had known for decades, because only their *real* names—and not their nicknames—were published in obituaries.

That's because most Johnstown residents, especially males of Italian heritage, had nicknames—often tacked on by childhood friends—which they were known by all over town for the rest of their lives.

For example, Anthony Bartelmo started being called "Fat Horse" by his school buddies because he was so much bigger than his friends, explained his daughter, Louise DeMucci. "After he got married, they called his wife 'Pee Wee.' They made quite a pair," she added.

Also, consider a great moniker like "Johnny Saturday." His real name was John Donofrio, and he was a postman in the borough for many years. He earned that nickname because "he was the best football player Downingtown ever had," asserted, Helm, who was a great DHS football player as well. And after Donofrio carried back a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown against arch-rival Coatesville one Saturday afternoon, he was forever known to most borough residents as "Johnny Saturday."

And some guys got their nicknames from their siblings. Samuel "Chicken" Mento explained that his mother always cut the first piece of a chicken, usually a choice cut of white meat, for him because he was a sickly child. "And my brothers and sisters got so jealous they started calling me Chicken."

Other news items

Noted below are other news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of June 1978:

The **Pepperidge Farm** English muffin plant on Boot Road, Downingtown, was closed for several weeks after a fire did more than \$150,000 damage.

While celebrating his 25th anniversary as an employee of Downingtown, Borough Manager **Don Greenleaf** recalled that he was a gangly 20-year-old when he started working in the municipal engineering department in 1953.

The **Downingtown Library** thanked the Lions and Rotary Clubs for their donations of five smoke detectors and a heat detector. And Downingtown National Bank donated \$300 toward the library's summer reading program.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Welcome Wagon Club** were Jackie Willard, president; Pat Barnes, first vice president; Susan Levin, secretary; and Sandy Lefler, treasurer.

Officers of **St. Joseph's Home and School Association** were Dennis McBride, president; Mike McDonald, vice president; Pat Moffitt, treasurer; Ann Geyer, recording secretary; and Maryann Sills, corresponding secretary.

Leaders chosen to lead the **Downingtown Area Education Secretaries Association** were Anita Ayoub, president; Phyllis Mattson, vice president; Shirley Nelms, secretary; and Barbara Mento treasurer. Also, Mrs. Mento, secretary at New East Ward School, was honored for her 25 years of service to the school district.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1319 Broadview West, West Bradford, \$63,900; 11 Fox Chase Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$71,934; 563 Westwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$65,750; 423 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Downingtown, \$42,500; 31 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$82,360; 4 Dogwood Lane, West Pikeland, \$117,500; 145 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$84,750.



Ground broken for new library

The Downingtown Library's board of directors held a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday for its new home at 122 Wallace Avenue, adjacent to Kerr Park in Downingtown. The rendering above shows what the front of the new library will look like when renovations to the School District's former Micken Administration Building are completed in the late fall.

In addition to nearly doubling the library overall space, the new facility will offer handicap accessibility, as many as 10 computer stations and increased parking—from nine spaces at the old library to 23 at the new site.

Even in this digital age, the current library has been a well-used community center. One out of every four Downingtown area residents does not have a personal computer at home and many of them rely on the library for access to the Internet.

More than 900 teens and adults annually participate in the library's educational programs or access vital information on health and human services there, and over 110,000 individuals borrow books and materials.

Established in 1876, the library has been located at 330 East Lancaster Ave. since 1914.

Deborah Miles, president of the library's board of directors, indicated that the current library is not handicap accessible, nor is it easy for senior citizens or caregivers with young children to use. Also, parking is limited. And collection development, program offerings, and information technology are significantly restricted because of a lack of space. These factors were prominent in the board's decision to relocate.

The board has launched a successful capital campaign to purchase the new facility. The campaign has raised 57% of its \$2.2 million goal. The board plans to sell the existing facility soon, and will use the proceeds to help purchase the new property.

The library received a Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project Grant with the help of State Senator Andy Dinniman and an Institute of Museum and Library Services Technology Grant with the help of Congressman Jim Gerlach.

For more information or to make a gift, contact: Karen Miller at (610) 269-2741 or visit: www.downingtowntownlibrary.org.

DHS alums suggest two possible alma mater lyricists

We still haven't determined who was the lyricist of the DHS alma mater. In fact, we also don't even know when the words were written.

However, as noted in last week's Hist-O-Gram, the DHS alma mater's lyrics were published in the February 1922 edition of *The Cuckoo*, a publication periodically put out by the high school's students more than 90 years ago. The letters "C.C. S." were printed underneath those published lyrics, leading us to suspect those were the lyricist's initials.

However, two DHS alumni have chosen to ignore that suspicion and offered their candidates.

Dr. John Rogers, a retired prof at Shippensburg University, wrote: "I always thought Niels Olsen and another Downingtown High School student wrote the words to the alma mater some time in the 1930s. In any case, the first time I heard the "1812 Overture," I was surprised that a composer from darkest Russia had 'lifted' our alma mater to include in one of his most famous works."

And Frank Manetta, former borough mayor, wrote: "I think Marion Phillips, POD (Problems of Democracy) teacher wrote the lyrics to the alma mater. I remember her telling me the melody was from the Russian National Anthem."

Also, on a related note, Rose Ciarlone recalls that, when returning from an away game, as a member of the DHS marching band (she was a majorette) and tennis team, all the kids were expected to stand up as the school bus was getting close to the high school and sing the alma mater. As a safety precaution, that practice is no longer allowed.

It was a springhouse on the MacFarland property in E. Brandywine



Peter Chim is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this photo, taken by Mike Dunn, as the former springhouse on the MacFarland farm on Buck Road, near Route 322 in East Brandywine Township. It's now a residence. A master's thesis on the MacFarland farm property 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>.

DHS football history on Facebook

To see lots of info on DHS football history, see www.facebook.com/groups/594722887247727/. And we understand that an FB page on DHS baseball history also is being developed.

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June 19, 2014

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Local news articles published 65 years ago

Chuck Hossack, former PR chief at Lukens Steel, recently gave us a bunch of copies of the *Daily Local News*, which were published during the week that West Chester borough was celebrating its 150th anniversary in the early fall of 1949. Understandably, those editions were packed with stories about West Chester's history. However, we also found these news articles about the Downingtown area, as well.

- Edward Dunmore, Yerkes Peoples, John Moyer, Albert Faneski and Walter Touchton each were awarded a pair of chickens because they were winners in the **Downingtown Sportsmen Club's** "splash board" competition at the traps of the Downingtown VFW Post.
- The **Downingtown Fire Department** reported that trial tests of the new two-way radio system were successful. And the Alert Fire Co. planned to use the \$1,885 raised at the recent community fair to build a garage at the rear of the firehouse on West Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Halfback Paul Talierco returned the second half kickoff for an 80-yard TD as the **DHS football team** beat Upper Merion 27-13. Other Whippet touchdowns were scored by Jack Helm and Bill Davis.
- Installed as new officers of the **Downingtown American Legion Post** were George Davidson, commander; Mark Bareford, first vice commander; Walter Crandall, second vice commander; Harlan Clavier, finance officer; Francis Summers, adjutant; Rev. David Stewart, chaplain; Ralph Howard, service officer; Paul Dague, historian; and Jonathan Windle, sergeant-at-arms.
- The **West Pikeland School Board** decided to ask township voters to approve floating a \$49,000 bond issue, which would be the township's share in financing the construction of a \$300,000 addition to the Downingtown Junior-Senior High School.

News stories about the Downingtown area in January 1947

Noted below are news articles which were published in local newspapers 67 years ago.

Installed as officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Russell Allison, president; Morris Griffith, vice president; Harvey Happersett, secretary; Ira Smedley, treasurer; Harry Ruth, chief; Elmer Kochel, assistant chief; and Sherman Kirkpatrick, trustee.

In its quest for a third consecutive county championship, the **Downingtown Junior High basketball team** beat West Chester Junior High 29-19. The Hayes brothers, Pete and Bill, scored 20 of Downingtown's points. And Pete Hayes tossed in 14 points, as Coach Don White's squad defeated Coatesville Junior High 28-22. However, the DHS varsity lost to St. Agnes High School, West Chester, 35-32, despite Dan Barrow's 15 points for the Whippets.

Newly elected officers of the **Marshallton Grange** were Gilbert Gray, master; Kenneth Jefferis, overseer; Jane Conners, lecturer; Lawrence Barker, steward; Robert Hayman, assistant steward; Esther Hill, treasurer; Mary Gibson, chaplain; Alice Shoemaker, secretary; and William Baldwin, gatekeeper.

Officers elected to lead the **Brandywine Building and Loan Association**, Downingtown, included Arthur Glauner, president; S.F. McDonald, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; Richard Warren, treasurer; and Theodore Griffith, solicitor.

Officers chosen to lead the Sunday School of **St. Paul's Reformed Church**, Lionville, were Everett Wilson, president; Bayard Samworth, vice president; Emmett Gordon, treasurer; Mrs. Harmon Rogers, secretary; and Mrs. James Messner, pianist.

Installed as officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were Edwin Smedley, master; Harold Pyle, overseer; Sara Pyle, lecturer; Mrs. F.W. Moore, chaplain; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Annie Smedley, gatekeeper.

Members of the Washington Camp, **Patriotic Sons of America of Eagle**, elected these officers: Robert Simpson, president; Harold Jones, vice president; Clyde Harner, master of forms; Walter McCardell, recording secretary; Herman Arters, financial secretary; Walter Garvine, treasurer; Raymond Garvine, conductor; Joseph Taylor, inspector; Alan Dewees, guard; and John Garvine, trustee.

Elected as officers of the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** were Leroy McConnell, president; Frank Miller, vice president; Ernest Philips, treasurer; Larue Williams, secretary; and Wilmer Ferrell, Walter Ford and Clarence Miller, trustees.

Newly installed officers of the **Lyndell Grange** included Edward Towson, master; John McCausland, overseer; Ruth Jackson, lecturer; John Frazer, steward; Morris Jackson, assistant steward; Ruth Moore, chaplain; Warren Marshall, treasurer; Julia Peck, secretary; and James McQuail, gatekeeper.

Becky Desmond, Downingtown art teacher and tennis coach, retires



Becky Desmond, teacher in Downingtown schools for 52 years (a School District record), and high school tennis coach for 40 years, has retired. She's shown in the photo above at her retirement dinner, with the sign which will be installed at the newly dedicated Becky Desmond

Tennis Courts at DHS West. Among her accomplishments as an art teacher she: helped start the Living Arts program 40 years ago, established a chapter of the National Art Honor Society, perpetuated the 106-year-old Senior Mantle tradition for several decades, and, as DHS Teacher of the Year in 1985-86, accepted the high school's first national Excellence in Education Award at the White House. As tennis coach of the DHS girls' and boys' tennis teams which won 15 Ches-Mont League titles, she was named National Coach of the Year by the U.S. Professional Tennis Registry, was the first inductee to the Hall of Fame of the Middle States Div. of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association, was chosen by the U.S. Tennis Association to co-author a book on coaching high school tennis, and received the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Educational Merit Award in 1998.

Find out if you're related to Downingtown's founders

Bob Downing of the Houston area recently informed us that you can find more than 5,500 names of people who are related to the family that founded Downingtown, at this website: <http://rdown3657.tribalpages.com/>. The Downings of Downingtown PA – Family Tree site also includes 387 photos of individuals and gravesites. Ray Downing developed the site and continues to be the webmaster.

It's at 217 Whiteland Avenue in Downingtown



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as the one located at 217 Whiteland Avenue in Downingtown.

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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.com, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Downingtown Library activities & events

Spring Garden Tour, noon to 4 PM Sunday, June 22. Tickets--\$20 in advance, \$23 day of the tour--available for purchase at the library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enjoy a beautiful day touring unique gardens in the Downingtown area. The tour is sponsored by the Friends of the Downingtown Library. All proceeds benefit the library.

Summer Reading Club: Stop in the library to register for our Summer Reading Club. There are clubs for kids, teens, and adults. This summer's theme is Fizz, Boom, Read!

Science in the Summer program runs from June 30 through July 3. Level 1 (children entering first and second grades) will run 1:45-2:45 PM, and Level 2 (children entering third, fourth and fifth grades) will run 3-4 PM. Registration on a first-come, first-served basis; 16 children will be accepted on each level.

For more info on activities and events, call 610-269-2741.

St. Joe's Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is sponsoring a Community Festival on the church grounds on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The festival will be held 6-10 PM Thursday, June 19, and 6-11 PM on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. The attractions include rides for children and adults, live bands, games and food. For discounted ride deals, access <http://stjoesfestival.com> or the church's Facebook page.

Also, there will be fireworks Friday night, June 20.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet Room for rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday 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. 5, No. 26

June 26, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

Local news originally published 52 years ago

The following items were published in local newspapers in the early part of July 1962:

Fire destroyed a historic, frame building, which was used by Good News Productions Inc. in West Pikeland, to produce the classic horror film, *The Blob*, starring Steve McQueen. Constructed in 1869, the building had been the Chester Springs Soldiers' and Orphans Home. It also was used, from 1917 until 1952, by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts to conduct art classes in the summertime.

A proposal to build apartments in the Gable Avenue neighborhood in **Downingtown** was shot down by Borough Council because that area was zoned for single dwellings, and some 250 West Ward residents signed a petition against changing the zoning.

Winners in competitive games for youngsters on **Good Neighbor Day**, sponsored by the Downingtown Optimists Club on the Fourth of July, included Joseph and Stephen Horsey, Diane and Brenda Henderson, Dale Wemett, Gordon James, George Wilson and David Stott. Adult game winners were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beam, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lyons, and Mrs. Mrs. Glen Echhoff. Mrs. Helen Burkhart won the cake baking competition.

The **Downingtown Optimists Club** bought and refurbished the old Railway Express building, which had been located for many years at the Downingtown Railroad Station, and moved it to Kerr Park, where Boy Scouts could store the old newspapers they collected. Members of the Optimists also had built a "cook-out" structure, to be used by the public in Kerr Park.

Members of the **Marshallton Girl Scout Troop**, who participated in a cook-out and sleep-over on the Fowler farm, were Connie and Janet Rissell, Jane Nordblom, Patty Hoxter, Donna Yetter, Joyce Watson, Suzanne Jones, Darlene Judy, Gale Morrison, Susan Durnall and Gale Collins.

Those who participated in the closing exercises of the Vacation Bible School at **Glenmoore Methodist Church**, directed by Mrs. Grier Miller, were accompanist Sherry Massimini, flag bearers Mary Ann Moore and Kathy Ayers, and Bible carrier Robert Ferguson.

Ninth graders who received diplomas for completing **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School included: Donald Ash, Cheryl and Dallas Krapf, Linda Laird, Roy Nellius, Barry Piersol, James Sanders, Janet Seeds, Patty Whitely and Danny Yost.

These members of the Downingtown chapter, **Women of the Moose**, were installed as officers: Mrs. Thomas Moffat, graduate regent; Mrs. Robert Moore, junior regent; Mrs. Byron Dawson, chaplain; Mrs. Ashton Lammey, recorder; Mrs. Willard Marsh, treasurer; Mrs. Dale Eber, guide; Mrs. Robert Norris, assistant guide; Mrs. John Robinson, sentinel; Mrs. Daniel Zittle, argus; Mrs. Blanche Summers, pianist; and Mrs. Edward Robinson, senior regent.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe, were John Barton, Stephen and William Behrnt, Dale Coover, James Dewees, Clair Koser, Roger Lackey, Francis Parisan, David Peterson, Peter Plank, Harry Rauch Jr., James Rice, Thomas Shreiner, Robert Worthington, James Young, James Wunsch, and Andrew Parsons.

Members of **Cub Pack 79**, Glenmoore, who participated in the seventh annual Cubolympics, held at Devereux School, were Harold and Allen Earnshaw, David Funk, David Taylor, Harvey Roeder, Gregory Hannum, Pat Corry, Gene Arters, James Ortlip, Louis Waldmann, Carl Shrader, Ray Chilcote, Danny and Michael Messner, Scott Herter, Chuck Keesey, Carl Harple, Alan Colestock and Jesse Baker.

When most of the Downingtown area was rural

With the exception of the Borough of Downingtown, most of the communities that now comprise the Downingtown School District were rural villages surrounded by farm land. To provide a more accurate picture of the area, noted below is a breakdown of the populations—1930 vs. 2010 Census—of the eight municipalities which make up the School District. Obviously, all of the communities have experienced growth since 2010.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>1930 Pop.</u>	<u>2010 Pop.</u>
Downingtown	4,548	7,891
East Brandywine	774	6,742
East Caln	297	4,838
Uwchlan	507	18,088
Upper Uwchlan	597	11,227
Wallace	630	3,458
West Bradford	1,558	12,376
West Pikeland	592	4,824

Contributions to new Downingtown Library project

The Downingtown Library has received one-time donations of money or in-kind gifts of at least \$10,000 from Downingtown Borough and East Brandywine, East Caln, Uwchlan and West Bradford Townships. The donations will be used for the purchase and renovation of the Downingtown School District's former Micken building, which will be the site of the new library at 122 Wallace Avenue in the heart of Downingtown.

The General Warren Inne: A historic road back to delicious

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen Meacham. She and her husband, Ron, won the grand prize—meals at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the “A Taste of Chester County” restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society last fall.

The General Warren Inne in Malvern, opened in 1745. Back then, it was known as The Admiral Edward Vernon Inne, and later became The Admiral Warren Inne. John Penn, grandson of William, owned the Inne during the American Revolution. Loyalists to the British crown gathered at the Inne, and hatched several plots against the revolutionaries including the Paoli Massacre. In 1786, John Penn sold the property to Casper Fahnestock, a German Seventh Day Adventist, who kept it as a successful lodge and eatery, and changed its name to The General Warren Inne in 1825. During the 1830's, the Inne fell on hard times when the railroad replaced stage coaches and the carriage trade, and Fahnestock turned it into a Temperance Hotel The

Inne changed hands often, including a stint as a private residence. In the 1980's, the current owners returned it to its 18th century beauty.

Our dining experience started with uniquely prepared lobster flatbread with mushroom, peppers and bacon in a Dijon-tarragon sauce; pan seared scallops with roasted peaches, watercress, goat cheese, pomegranate and spiced cashews; baked Gruyere puffs made with white truffle oil, sea salt and shaved locatelle, and Rhode Island oysters.

The enticing entrées selected were the special grouper plate and Long Island duck, both served with truffled lentils and a variety of complementary sauces. The caesar salad was perfectly prepared at our table, an uncommon treat. Dessert consisted of pineapple upside down cake and lemon crumble tart. We topped off our meals with a mix of coffee and cappuccino. Service was efficient and pleasant, complemented by a dose of Irish humor.

The General Warren Inne provides excellent continental cuisine, fine wines and, if you so desire, overnight stays. We want to thank The General Warren Inne for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's "A Taste of Chester County" fundraiser.

It's at 103 Shoen Road in Exton



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as 103 Shoen Road in Exton. The original part of the house was built in 1821. For more info, see: www.trulia.com/property/3130718530-103-Shoen-Rd-Exton-PA-19341.

Focus on Blizzard of 1888 may offer relief from heat

Instead of focusing on the inevitable hot, humid weather we'll have to endure in the coming months, maybe we can find some relief by learning about how the Downingtown area coped with the legendary Blizzard of 1888.

According to stories in the March 17, 1888 edition of the *Chester County Archive*, a weekly newspaper published in Downingtown in the late 19th Century, the snow on Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown was 4 feet deep. It took several days for a "force of men," temporarily hired by borough's Street Committee, to use shovels to clear Downingtown's main thoroughfare. And many of the passenger and freight trains scheduled to stop in Downingtown didn't arrive in the borough for days because they were blocked by huge snow drifts en route, or the tracks were impassable due to fallen utility poles and power and telegraph lines, which had been downed by fierce winds and the mounting snow.

Yes, the Downingtown area, like the rest of the East Coast, was overwhelmed by the four-day snowstorm in mid-March 1888. But as Mary Cable noted in her book, *The Blizzard of 1888*, the storm was historically important because it illuminated how America's newly industrialized communities of all sizes had become dependent on new technologies such as electricity and telephone and telegraph service. And residents of small towns, as well as big cities, were shocked when they realized that Mother Nature had temporarily blown all that progress away.

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Good Neighbor Day

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Day Committee's activities benefit the following ambulance and rescue squads: Alert Fire Co., Minquas Ambulance Corps, Uwchlan Ambulance Corps, East Brandywine Fire Co., Glenmoore Fire Co. and West Bradford Fire Co. Good Neighbor Day is a day-long event that starts with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and 5K Freedom Walk at 8 AM. Approximately 1,500 athletes participate each year. Throughout the day you can enjoy fabulous food, visit 80-100 craft exhibitors or simply enjoy one of the many activities scheduled for the day. For details, see:

www.goodneighborday.com/events-schedule/. The day is capped off with a fireworks finale at dusk.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Reservations for the DHS Class of 1964's 50th reunion are due by June 30. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. As part of the reunion, the class plans to have a float in the Homecoming Parade on Thursday evening, Sept. 25, and attend the Homecoming Game on Friday night, Sept. 26. For more information see: <http://dhsclassof64.org/> or contact Judi (Grubb) Supplee via jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com or call 610-220-6138.

Downingtown Library activities & events

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