



Downingtown Area Historical Society

Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 27

July 3, 2014

Where and What Are These?



The first person to correctly identify these two hunky guys and what they're doing will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news published 52 years ago

Noted below are tidbits of news originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of July 1962.

More than 1,800 youngsters began participating in the **Downingtown Area Recreation** program, which was established by the Elementary School Board in 1952. Carl Garrison, Elementary Education director, had overall responsibility for the program, and Ed Novak, principal at Lionville School, was responsible for the playgrounds at Kerr Park, Lionville School, East Ward School, Beaver Creek School and Marshallton School. Eileen McCardell, Jeanne Emery, Grace Davis, Linda Hadfield, Carole Bennetch, Bonnie Plank, Nancy Kohls, Elizabeth Courtless and Ron Knickerbocker were playground supervisors.

At **Beaver Creek** playground, the wacky hat competition was won by Jane Forbes and Larry Charles. At **Marshallton**, winners of the model show were Ray Wood, Francis Wood, Cheryl Harper and Ron Williams. Roy Eshleman and Gwen Landis were chiefs of the winning teams in the corn relay at **East Ward**.

George Krapf of Glenmoore won the Chester County trapshooting championship at the West Chester Gun Club.

The **Downingtown Fire Department** beat the **Lionville Fire Co.** 1-0 in a donkey baseball game on a field near Route 100 and the PA Turnpike. There were 10 donkeys involved; one for each fielder and the pitcher, plus one for the batter.

State Police from the Thorndale Barracks were investigating the theft of \$1,400, mostly cash, from a safe at the **Whitford Post Office** on Route 30. Mrs. Mary Van Wijk, postmistress, reported the break-in and burglary.

Gleaned from late 19th Century issues of Downingtown weekly

Harry Skeen, a Downingtown printer, established a weekly newspaper in the borough in 1873. While Skeen was the editor-publisher, the paper was called the ***Chester County Archive***. It carried few news articles about borough events and activities. Instead, most of the material in the paper covered news from communities all over the United States, apparently provided by a news service.

The Historical Society only has access to a few 19th Century editions of the newspaper, on microfilm, in its archival collection. Noted below are several news articles about doings in Downingtown during the late 19th Century, which we retrieved from that limited number of issues.

According to the October 5, 1889 edition, 55 candidates were to be confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Bradford Avenue, Downingtown, by Archbishop P.J. Ryan, Philadelphia Archdiocese Diocese, and 18 of those candidates were from St. Mary's Chapel in Exton.

Although this was the Victorian era in America, where privacy was treasured, another article in the October 5, 1889 edition noted that when Dr. L. T. Bremmerman lanced the abscess of John Bender, of Washington Avenue in Downingtown, "almost a pint of pus was discharged."

And the December 30, 1893 issue included a notice that there was a YMCA in the borough back then. Members of the organization, led by J. R. Hunsicker, principal of Downingtown High School, met in Bicking Hall. *(Editor's Note: We have no idea where Bicking Hall was located. We did discover, however, that was where members of Downingtown Methodist Church worshipped temporarily, while their church on Brandywine Avenue was being built in 1889.)*

Hope to see you on Good Neighbor Day

The Historical Society will be selling metal ornaments, which commemorate historic buildings in the borough, at our booth on Good Neighbor Day in Kerr Park. The ornaments being sold include: Old East Ward School, the Log House, the Downingtown Library, the 1932 Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy), West Ward School, Downingtown Borough Hall, and the original Minquas Firehouse.

See this vintage baseball uniform at our GND booth on July 4th



Mike DiLuigi recently donated this 1930s vintage baseball uniform to the Historical Society. The team was sponsored by Vince DiLuigi, owner of a shoe repair shop which was located more than 80 years ago in the Swan Hotel building on the borough's Center Square. The uniform will be on display at the Historical Society's booth on Good Neighbor Day in Kerr Park. If you have any more info on Vince DiLuigi, or his shop, please send it to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

Although this a holiday weekend, the Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, July 6. That's because many of you will need a respite from several days of noisy fireworks and smoky grills. So if you want to spend a quiet, temperature-controlled afternoon on Sunday, clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

DHS East academic team placed second in Nationals



The DHS East Academic Team placed second in the national competition, held in June at the Walt Disney World Contemporary Resort in Florida. The DHS East team was unique in the national competition because it was comprised of students from one high school, while the winning team, Florida, and the third place team, Oklahoma, were all-star teams from their respective states. The local team, shown above after winning the state championship in May in Harrisburg, included: Vis Lanka, Zack Weber, Neil Vinjamuri, Varun Girdhar, Nicholas Wu, Angela Cai and Victoria Pan. The team's co-coaches were Darryl McCauley and Alyssa Read. Paul Hurley is principal of DHS East.

It's at 930 Horseshoe Pike in East Brandywine Twp.



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as Hurry Hill Farm, at 930 Horseshoe Pike in East Brandywine. It was built in 1854. For more info on the house, see: www.zillow.com/homedetails/930-Horseshoe-Pike-Downingtown-PA-19335/87762961_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.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.

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

Paid ads for businesses

Vance Usher, registered representative

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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

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.

Bats for Matt

The Bats for Matt Softball Tournament will be held at Kerr Park, Downingtown, Saturday, July, 19 and Sunday, July 20. Info on teams must be submitted before July 14 to: BigCiarlone@gmail.com or Krazzielazzie224@yahoo.com. See <http://batsformatt.com/> for more details.

Chicken BBQ

The Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ dinner on Saturday, July 26. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and a beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at 610-696-5247 or via office@marshalltonchurch.org.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Reservations for the DHS Class of 1964's 50th reunion are due by (new deadline) July 31. 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

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 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.

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.



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Vol. 5, No. 28

July 10, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Interesting local news published 36 years ago

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

The top four finishers among the 38 canoe entrants in the eighth annual **canoe race** (were: Walter Werner and Chuck Hendricks, first; Bill James and Ray Hagele second; Hank and Doug Hamilton, third; and Bruce and Keith Liebert, fourth. The 7.5-mile race down the Brandywine started at Kerr Park and ended at Georgia Farm in East Bradford.

(Editor's Note: The canoe race was established by the Downingtown Jaycees in the early 1970s. Then it was taken over in the late 1970s by the Downingtown Rotary Club, which continued that responsibility for decades. The race was folded into Good Neighbor Day, which was launched in 1979.)

East Caln supervisors agreed to investigate the possibility of contracting with Downingtown or Uwchlan to provide police protection. About eight months earlier, state trooper Gene Biagiotti candidly acknowledged at a supervisors' meeting that a police presence would do little to reduce crime in the township.

Some of the star kickballers in the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Commission's summer program at the **Lionville School** playground were Patty Welch, Kevin Traynor, Doug Kaiser, Joey and Lori Boyce, Danny Miller, Sharon Lynch, Joe Pancerella, Mike Strong, and Steve Knickerbocker. And top performers in the ring toss at the **Beaver Creek** playground were Joshua and Chris Tyson, Robert Wagner and Chris Schuhardt. Best Frisbee tossers at **East Ward** playground were Andrew Ploeger, Pat and John Borst, Beverly Eldridge, Shannon Boggs, and Laurie and Beverly Myers.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League's** major league (11 and 12-year-olds) all-star team were Tom McCool, Butch Schucker, Robbie Smith, Joey Rainey, Jack Oberle, Bobby Sarmento, George Hipple, Brian Wemmett, Rollie Boyle, Marc Ruggiano, Vernon Murphy, Wally McCue, Jeff Williams and Roger White. The team was coached by Danny Massimini and Ed Cooney.

Local people who received Outstanding Volunteer Awards from **Little League** District 23 administrator Tony Marra were Ron Savastio and Frank DiOttavio, Downingtown Little League, and Paul Seymour, Lionville Youth Association.

Named to the major league all-star team of the **Girls LYA Softball League** were Tina Marx, Julie and Amy Sten, Ashley Melton, Sondra Schrade, Melanie Wix, Barrie Benjamin, Bonnie McKee, Betty Tiller, Dina Repp, Nancy Davison, Bonnie Bull and Margie McQuillin.

Recent **property transfers** included: 42 Highland Ave., Downingtown, \$48,500; 223 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$68,900; 1259 Glenside Road, West Bradford, \$57,000; 14 Windmere Court, East Brandywine, \$42,900; 101 Cheryl Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$57,900; 482 Fairview Road, Wallace, \$82,000.

Members of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, celebrated its 140th anniversary by breaking ground for a new church.

Committee chairpersons for the **DHS Alumni Association's** picnic at Kerr Park were Turie Hayes, Mary Mahan, Nicky Anderson, Eloise Sigle, Hazel Miller, Virginia Elliott, Helen Eachus, Gladys and Tom Brookover, Duke Charles, Ed and Sue McDermott, Howard Fitzgerald, Bill Mason, Joe Bird, Cliff Ivey, Elma Miller, Jerry Matthews and Francis Summers.

Becky Messa broke several Brandywine Swim League records in the 12 and under competition, as Pennypacker Country Club won its first two meets of the season.

Members of the **Downingtown Babe Ruth League's** 14-15 year olds all-star team were Ted Ortiz, Don Forbes, Ron Sheridan, Scott Evans, Mike Diamond, Eric Presson, Mike Lynch, Dan Dougherty, Doug Runyen, Bob Trauger, Rick Dunn, Mark Ciarlone, Larry Protivnak, Vince Forgione, Jay McNeil and Dave Hammer. Pat Murphy was the manager, and Rick Ciarlone was the assistant manager.

Newly installed officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were: Millard Ryan, president; Dr. Joseph McCahon, first vice president; Richard Thatcher, second vice president; Lewis Wilson, treasurer; Jack Bonham, secretary; David Kirkner, assistant treasurer; and directors Rev. Richard Wolfe, Bob Schafer, Frank Brouse and Bill Mason.

Rose Castaldi provides history of DiLuigi's Shoe Repair Shop

In the July 3 Hist-O-Gram, we showed a photo of Mike DiLuigi holding a 1930s vintage baseball uniform that was worn by members of the team sponsored by DiLuigi's Shoe Repair Shop, which Mike donated to the Historical Society. And we asked readers of last week's Hist-O-Gram if any of them had any info about DiLuigi's Shoe Repair Shop. Well, Rose Formica Castaldi came to our rescue, and provided this bit of local history:

DiLuigi's Shoe Repair Shop was located on what is now the parking lot of the DNBFirst Bank. Close to it was the Travaglini Tailor Shop and then The Methodist Church. My brother, Anthony "Ninny" Formica, started to work for Vince "Biangi" Di Luigi, when he was 12 years old and learned from him, the trade, to become a master shoemaker. When Biangi retired, he sold the business to Ninny. Thus, the start of Ninny's Shoe Shop on West Lancaster Avenue came about. When Ninny retired, his son Brian took over, and he operated it until several years ago.

We always liked having our shoes repaired, as they were shiny and you did not have to break them in, as a new pair.

Also, Michael DiLuigi's dad, Anthony, had a shoe store, located where a part of First Niagara Bank is now located. The store was known as DiLuigi' Shoes, a family store that sold men's, women's and children's shoes and boots. A good pair of women's shoes sold from \$3.95 to \$5.95, and kids' shoes were \$2.95 to \$3.95. This I know, because I worked there for seven years.

You had to pay to attend DHS commencement in 1894

Here are some more goodies we retrieved from late 19th Century editions of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper:

1. According to the May 26, 1894 edition of *The Downingtown Archive*, only two students—Louisa Huber and Joseph Laird—graduated from Downingtown High School in 1894, which wasn't unusual back then.

Despite the tiny number of graduates, there was no skimping on the commencement, which included several orations, recitations and addresses, as well as musical selections played by an orchestra brought in from West Chester.

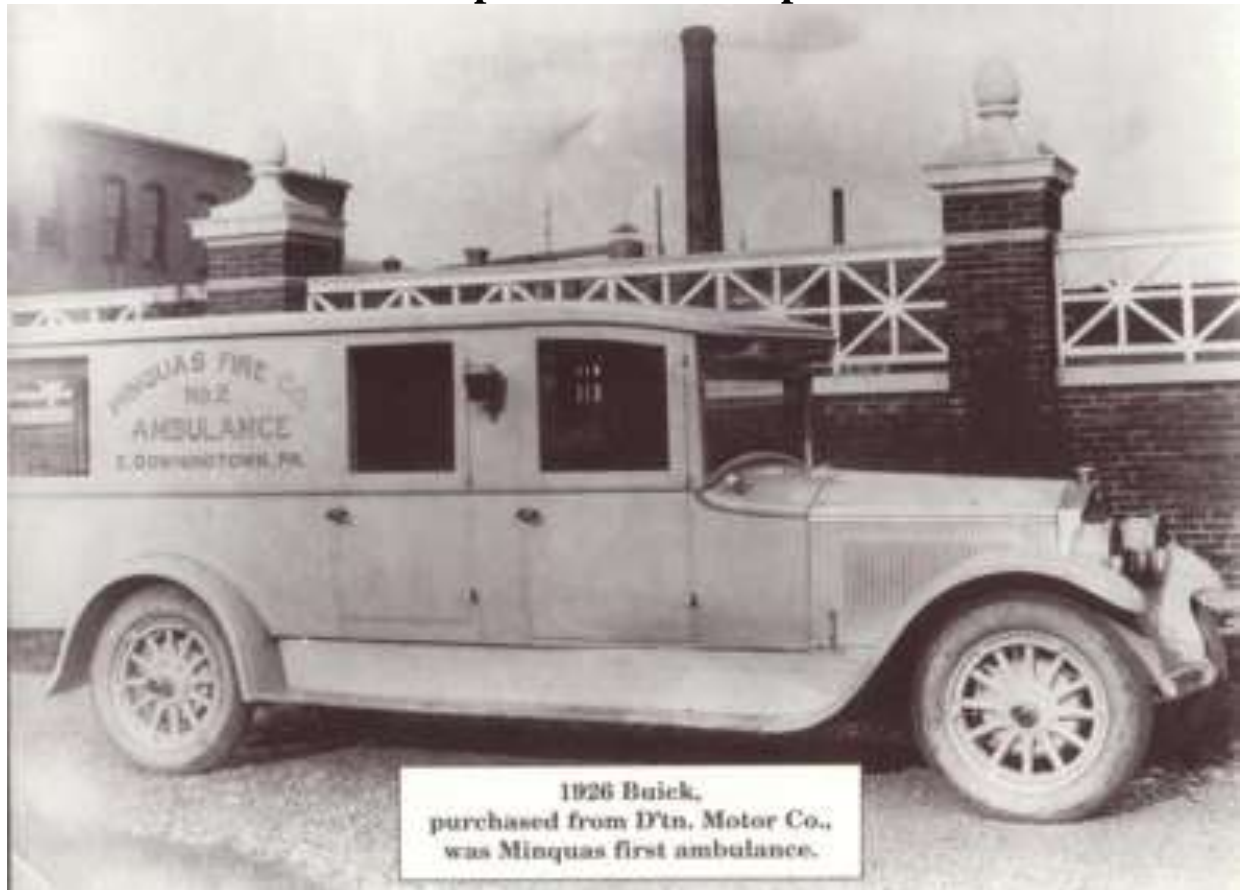
The commencement was conducted in Central Hall, next door to the borough's Central School, which included grades 1 through 12 in the former Institute Building on West Lancaster Avenue, near where the current Messiah Lutheran Church is located.

Central Hall was constructed in 1860 for the First Presbyterian Church, which disbanded during the Civil War. Subsequently, the former church building became Central Hall, where itinerant entertainment, wrestling matches were held. In 1902, Central Hall was converted into the original Messiah Lutheran Church.

The most interesting part of commencement exercise was that there was a 25-cent admission fee. In today's money, that would be about \$4 per ticket. Despite the fee and the small graduating class, Central Hall "was crowded with intelligent and appreciative people," crowed *The Archive*.

2. Wonder what people could buy for 25 cents in Downingtown in 1894? According to an ad in the June 23, 1894 issue of *The Archive*, for the Howard Simmons' store, located at the corner of Church Street and Bradford Avenue in the Johnsontown section of the borough, here's what you could get for a quarter back then: 4 packages of corn starch, 3 "good" mackerel, 5 lbs. of rice, 8 bars of soap, 1 lb. of butter, 2 cans of salmon, 1 gal. of molasses, and 1 gal. of vinegar.

Area residents were transported to the hospital in a 1926 ambulance



Proceeds from Downingtown's Good Neighbor Day celebration have been donated to local ambulance corps and rescue squads for 35 years. But if Downingtown area residents had to be transported to the hospital in the late 1920s, they probably would have been taken to the hospital in the Minquas Fire Company's 1926 Buick ambulance pictured above.

We're looking for RNs who served in the military

The Historical Society wishes to conduct a Veterans Program that focuses on registered nurses from the Downingtown area who served in the military during the Korean Conflict, Viet Nam, Iraq or Afghanistan. Participants will be on a panel, comprised of former military nurses who will tell an audience of local residents about their wartime experiences. We plan to offer the program on a Sunday afternoon in September or October at a public venue.

Former military nurses, or if you know someone who is, interested in this Veterans Program, should contact us at Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037.

No, they're not the Bobsey Twins



Linda Draper is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the guys in the photo above as Ron Dankanich, left, and Dr. Mario Spoto, right. The dynamic duo is part of local history because they have been emceeing the Good Neighbor Day events at Kerr Park for more than 30 years. Thanks guys.

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.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Uwchlan's Community Day

Uwchlan Township's 17th annual Community Day will begin at the Lionville Fire Co. on South Village Avenue at 9 AM Saturday, July 12 with the David J. Good Run & Walk. And starting at 4 PM, at Lionville Park, 34 Devon Drive, there will be free games and activities for kids, and musical entertainment.

Swinging Summer Saturday

The Downingtown Main Street Association will have street festival from 5 PM to 10 PM on Saturday, August 9 on Wallace Avenue, between Lancaster and Pennsylvania Avenues in Downingtown. Local crafts people, restaurants and businesses that wish to participate should contact:
manager@downingtownmainstreet.com for booth space applications and more details.

Life in the 1850s & 1860s

Costumed re-enactors will demonstrate period crafts and trades, and talk about life in the 1850s and 1860s from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, July 19 at the Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark, at 1730 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs.

Bats for Matt

The Bats for Matt Softball Tournament will be held at the Downingtown Little League field on Manor Avenue, Saturday, July, 19 and Sunday, July 20. Info on teams must be submitted before July 14 to: BigCiarlone@gmail.com or Krazzielazzie224@yahoo.com. See <http://batsformatt.com/> for more details.

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Downingtown Library activities & events

The monthly giving program of Bob Wagner's Flooring America is supporting the Downingtown Library in July. All participants are asked to take a picture of their favorite book cover and email it, with your name and snail mail address, to: media@bobwagner.com. For every book cover received by Bob Wagner's, they will donate \$1 to the Downingtown Library. Also, Bob Wagner's will randomly select one book cover photo from those received each week in July and contribute an additional \$5 in that person's name to the Library.

Entries are limited to five photos per email address and/or social user.

Farmers Market

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July 17, 2014

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More Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

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

Sharon and Catherine Clark, who had been living at 357 Washington Ave., Downingtown, for five years, were being **investigated by the U.S. Secret Service** because they mailed threatening letters to President Jimmy Carter and other government officials. They also threatened to take over the Philadelphia Art Museum. The two sisters had been charged in 1976 by Washington Avenue neighbors, who alleged the pair “did cause alarm and seriously annoy the neighbors by hollering obscenities in the street, and did threaten to sic large German shepherd upon said neighbors.” Both women pleaded guilty to the charges of disorderly conduct and harassment, and District Magistrate C. Burtis Coxe fined them a total of \$1,200, plus court costs. *(Editor’s Note: After the article on the Clark sisters was published, the East Branch Citizen sent a copy of the story to Jody Powell, White House Press Secretary. In response, Patricia Barrio, associate press secretary, wrote: “Jody asked me to say thanks for sending along the story of the Clark sisters. He says, at last report, the President was planning to stay in residence at the White House for a number of years, and we hope that that pleases you as much as it does him.”)*

Other news published in July 1978

Recent property transfers were: 7 Surrey Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$70,180; 113 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$32,000; 1520 Walton Drive, West Bradford, \$50,000; 312 Gwynedd Court, Uwchlan, \$45,490; 118 Whitford Hills Road, East Caln, \$95,000; and 3 Wyndham Court, East Brandywine, \$38,000.

Bill Keen, of Downingtown, the Alert Fire Company’s chief engineer, owned more than 200 toy fire trucks. His 25-year-old collection ranged from horse-drawn fire wagons to modern diesel-powered units.

Emma Pyle, a secretary in **Uwchlan Township’s** office, was tired of receiving telephone calls from people who were trying to call **Upper Uwchlan Township** officials. The basic problem was Upper Uwchlan Township didn’t have a listed phone number. To rectify the situation, Uwchlan Township sent their neighboring township a bill for telephone answering services. In turn, Upper Uwchlan supervisors chuckled about the bill, and apparently ignored paying the invoice for the answering services.

Members of the **Woman’s Club of Uwchlan** who organized a flower show were Mrs. William Balderston, Mrs. Walter Uhler, Mrs. Warren Patterson, Mrs. Joseph Taylor and Mrs. Elmer Hartwick. The show’s sweepstakes award for horticulture was won by Mrs. Arthur Matthews.

Two performances of the **Hoxie Brothers Circus** were offered on the former G.O. Carlson parking lot (then located on the northwest corner of Pennsylvania and Wallace Avenues in Downingtown, where a strip mall is located today). The circus was sponsored by the Chester County Sertoma Club.

Members of the staff of the Vacation Bible School at **Marshallton Methodist Church** included Shirley Coulter, Joan and Catherine Trimble, Dorothy Perdue, Lynn Seegers, Melody Herr, Alice Shoemaker, Linda Reiter, Brenda Johnson, Carol Chapmen, Jennie Lowery, Ellen Barker, Clint and Debbie Fetterman, Richard Purcell, Sandy Martin, Cathy Cantelmi and Kim Wyatt.

Thorndale artist **Esther Zittle** won a first place award for her watercolor painting at a major art show in Cape May, NJ.

Dr. Charles Micken, **Downingtown school superintendent**, reported that only two other Chester County school districts—Avon Grove and Oxford—spent less per pupil than Downingtown did in the 1976-77 school year. Downingtown's spent \$1,474.74, while the per pupil average for all 12 school districts in the county was \$279.92 higher than Downingtown's average.

Winners in the eight and nine-year-old bracket of the fifth annual **Home Run Derby**, held at Kerr Park, were: Chris Silvestri, first; Tom Lane, second; Robert Brown, third. Those who won in the 10, 11 and 12-year-old division were: Rob Broderick, first; Kipper Guyon, second; and John Domblesky, third. And winners in the 13, 14 and 15-year-old bracket were: Domenic D'Ginto, first; Ron Savastio, second; and Bret Urbine, third.

Members of the **Downingtown Girls Softball League's** 9-12-year-old division all-star team were Bernadette Bonaduce, Helen Kugler, Anne Marie Cipollini, Ellen Formica, Mary Jacobson, Eileen Ferris, Christine Pelzar, Krista Lang, Jamie Natalie, Lauren Nixdorf, Kimberly Goleash, Mindy Titus, Johnna Warihay, Emily Hornung, Brenda Brown and Stephanie Marcocci.

Winners of the kickball competition at the **Wagenseller Park** playground in Glenmoore were Greg Hannum, Andrea Cory, Sean Mooney, Bryan McDonough and Ike Tipton. And girls who placed in the arm-hanging contest at the **New East Ward School** playground were Bev Eldridge, first; Jenny Brown, second; and Margie Barrett, third.

We're still seeking former military nurses

Madeleine Woodruff, who was an Army nurse during WW II, has offered to participate in a Historical Society program that will focus on the experiences of nurses who served in the military during wartime periods. The program will be offered this Fall.

Obviously, we can't expect Mrs. Woodruff, who subsequently was a school nurse and guidance counselor for many years at Downingtown Junior High School, to be the only former military nurses to discuss her wartime experiences. That means we still need additional former nurses from the Downingtown area who served while the U.S. was at war in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq or Afghanistan to participate in the program.. Nurses who wish to tell local residents about their wartime experiences should send us an email via

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037.

On a related note, Mary Letitia Staneski Webb, who grew up on Highland Avenue in Downingtown, sent us an interesting message after she read about our plan to have former military nurses participate in a Historical Society program. Mary moved to California in 1967, five years after she graduated from DHS in 1962. Here's what Mary wrote:

My aunt, Mary Letitia Tweed Thomas, who also grew up on Highland Avenue and graduated from DHS, was an Army nurse during the Second World War. She earned her nursing diploma from Chester County Hospital's Nursing School. While serving in Africa, Aunt Mary developed malaria and was medically discharged. In fact, I have her discharge papers. In later years, Aunt Mary married Earl Thomas of West Chester; they had no children. I was named after Aunt Mary, and we were especially close because I was the daughter she never had. In 1992, after Aunt Mary passed away, I had her name placed on the Women in Military Service memorial, which is located by the gates of Arlington National Cemetery.

It's at 1319 Romig Road, and it has an interesting history



Not one soul tried to guess the location of the house in the photo above. It's at 1319 Romig Road, West Bradford. However, Rob Doerr, the current owner, provided this info about the house and the properties nearby on Romig Road:

The original part of Doerr's house was built by a member of the Romig family in the 1920's. The property also includes the original barn, built in the mid-1800s, which was part of the old Romig orchard. The fruit farm was established in 1912 by Calvin Romig. The Romig's farmhouse is the white house immediately to the left of Doerr's house on Romig's Road. In 1949, Calvin's son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Susanna Romig, both deceased, moved into the former schoolhouse, which is a residence across the street from Doerr's property and next to Bradford Heights Elementary School.

Rotarians donate \$1,200 to new library

The Rotary Club of Thorndale-Downingtown has donated \$1,200 to support the new Downingtown Library, at 122 Wallace Avenue. The Rotary Club donated the proceeds from the entry fees paid to participate in the canoe race conducted during the Good Neighbor Day festivities on July 4th. The Rotarians combined funds from their treasury with the canoe race fees in order to make the \$1,200 donation. The donation will be used for the purchase and renovation of the new library.

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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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manager@downingtownmainstreet.com for booth space applications and more details.

Bats for Matt

The Bats for Matt Softball Tournament will be held at the Downingtown Little League field on Manor Avenue, Saturday, July, 19 and Sunday, July 20. See <http://batsformatt.com/> for more details.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

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Downingtown Library activities & events

The monthly giving program of Bob Wagner's Flooring America is supporting the Downingtown Library in July. All participants are asked to take a picture of their favorite book cover and email it, with your name and snail mail address, to: media@bobwagner.com. For every book cover received by Bob Wagner's, they will donate \$1 to the Downingtown Library. Also, Bob Wagner's will randomly select one book cover photo from those received each week in July and contribute an additional \$5 in that person's name to the Library.

Entries are limited to five photos per email address and/or social user.

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Hist-O-Gram

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

Vol. 5, No. 30

July 23, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Recollections of Downingtown in early 20th Century

Here are some highlights of the recollections of Raymond Dennis, a longtime borough resident who graduated from DHS in 1906, about life in Downingtown in the early 1900s. The recollections were originally published in the August 3 1978 edition of the *East Branch Citizen*.

- Most people rented their home. Their monthly rental was \$5 to \$10. A coal stove in the parlor had a pipe that extended into the ceiling in order to heat the second floor bedrooms.
- There were two bakeries in town that had delivery routes. They charged a nickel for an unwrapped loaf of bread. Pies were 5 and 10 cents, and a half dozen cinnamon buns cost a dime.
- When a woman went into labor, someone from the family had to walk or ride a horse to the doctor's since there were no phones. As a result, babies were often delivered at home by midwives. And surgery was usually performed at the patient's home.
- When someone died, neighbors often prepared the body for burial; embalming was not done.
- Most employees worked 10 hours a day, six days a week. Dennis's father was a carpenter for the Pennsylvania Railroad, earning \$60 a month. Store clerks made \$10-\$12 a week.
- "Times have not changed much over the past 80 years. Girls became pregnant and had to marry. Mothers performed abortions and the daughters died from infection, and nothing was said or done about it. It only served as gossip. The town also had call girls who used to spend their time in the daylight hours sitting by the window in the west end Post Office (at the corner of West Lancaster and Stuart Avenues), watching for the arrival of a traveling salesman."
- The Downingtown jail was located on Brandywine Avenue, next to the Downingtown Methodist Church. On Sunday morning, the kids used to climb (5-foot high wood fence between the church and the jailhouse) to look in the small window to see how many drunks had been lodged on Saturday night."
- The large tract of land—bounded by Boot Road, the Pennsylvania Railroad, Chestnut Street and Brandywine Avenue—was the ½-mile Downingtown Race Track, which included a grandstand and bleachers. Harness races were conducted on Saturday afternoons and holidays.
- Downingtown's baseball field, which included a wooden grandstand and bleachers, was located on West Lancaster Avenue (where Priori's Mattress Store is now located). The County League baseball teams, which included the West Chester, Coatesville, Parkesburg and other clubs, played Downingtown there Saturday afternoons.

Other news in early August 1978 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*

East Caln Township approved plans for the four-story, 191-room **Tabas Hotel** on Route 30, opposite the Downingtown Inn. The supervisors also learned that joint police projection with Uwchlan and Upper Uwchlan Townships would increase East Caln's budget by \$230,000.

Members of the Bob Wagner's Mill Carpet team, which won the Downingtown-Uwchlan **Babe Ruth League**, were: Bob Trauger, Tom Turner, Vince Forgione, Mike Diamond, Jay McNeil, Ted Ortiz, Dave Zynn, Dave Watts, Dave and Gary Francella, Ray Thompson, Tom Dooley and Andy Mento. The team's manager was Pat Murphy; Dennis and Dave Snyder were the assistant managers.

Phillies shortstop Larry Bowa and third base coach Billy DeMars visited **Gregg Runyan**, who was hospitalized after he suffered severe leg injuries in a car accident. Bowa and DeMars signed Runyan's leg cast and gave him an autographed baseball.

Winners of the baseball throwing competition at the **Wagenseller playground** in Glenmoore were Chris and Jennifer Nierintz, Scott Kirkpatrick, Joel Sweeney, Mike and Margaret Orth, Michael Seal and Jennifer Lutz. Members of the winning team in the scavenger hunt at **East Ward playground** were Tanya Boggs, Beth Beccone, Barbara Jean Hughes and Beverly Eldridge. And performers in a talent show at the **Beaver Creek playground** were Chris Schuhardt, who recited “Pinkie Purr;” Alex DiObilda, who did a skateboard routine; and Danny Mento, who led the group in “Simon Says.”

St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Upper Uwchlan was celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the church’s cornerstone. The celebration included the inspection of the cornerstone’s contents, which included documents that dated back to 1898.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1515 Fox Run Drive, West Bradford, \$62,900; 118 Webster Avenue, Downingtown, \$38,500; 427 Fairfax Drive, Uwchlan, \$70,000; 22 Wyndham Court, East Brandywine, \$46,000;

The **Historic Yellow Springs Foundation** told West Pikeland supervisors that the foundation was “in financial trouble,” and it hoped to rectify that situation by selling some of its property. One asset it was considering selling was the Jenny Lind House on the north side of Art School Road.

Downingtown officials applied to have the following borough properties sites on East Lancaster Avenue added to the state’s **inventory of historic places**: Thomas Parke House, 320 E. Lancaster Ave.; Webster House, 429 E. Lancaster Ave.; Washington Inn, 463 E. Lancaster Ave.; Todd House, 335 E. Lancaster Ave.; Jug House, 736 E. Lancaster Ave.; Breezy Court, 517 E. Lancaster Ave.; Meredith Rogers House, 425 E. Lancaster Ave.; Milton Hoopes Pottery, 413 and 423 E. Lancaster Ave.; St. James Episcopal Church, 409 E. Lancaster Ave.; Tea House, 341 E. Lancaster Ave.; Downingtown Friends Meetinghouse, 800 E. Lancaster Ave.; Arts and Crafts House, 364 E. Lancaster Ave.; Downingtown National Bank, 408 E. Lancaster Ave.; and Ellis Y. Brown House, 328 E. Lancaster Ave.

Dr. Charles Micken, **Downingtown School superintendent**, reported that the number of students projected to attend the district’s 11 schools in September had increased by less than 1 per cent, to a total of 7,098. Micken also noted the district’s total population had increased by 6.6 per cent, to 32,589 (by 2014, that total has nearly doubled), since September 1977.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, who spent six days paddling along the Shenandoah River, included: Sean Breckley, Gary Bareford, Mike Davis, Alan Dawson, Steve Dolnack, Dale and Doug Fillman, Billy and Jimmy Flanagan, Scott Hunter, Jeff McCarty, Bob McCue and Peter Shaeffer.

The Keds team won the **Downingtown Team Tennis League**. Members of the team were Jamie Geschwindt, Marie Gillooly, Melissa Schneider, David and Bill Jemison, Dan Cook, Sara Nothstein, David Hammer and Craig Davis. Shirley Jemison was their coach.

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It's at 408 E. Lancaster Ave. and was an early site of DNBFirst



Seth Boer is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as the one located at 408 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. It took two years to construct the building because artisans took time off to fight in the Civil War. The house's bricks were produced at Cox's brickyard on the east side of Whiteland Avenue, below Washington Avenue, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*. And according to

Charles Pennypacker's *History of Downingtown*, the building was the site of the Downingtown National Bank (now DNBFirst) from 1862 until 1901, when a larger facility was opened on Center Square in the borough. For more details, see: www.trulia.com/property/3142493911-408-E-Lancaster-Ave-Downingtown-PA-19335.

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Drum & Bugle Corps Competition

The Downingtown Music Boosters and the Reading Bucaneers will present the Downingtown Classic Drum & Bugle Corps Competition at Kottmeyer (DHS West) Stadium Saturday, July 26, at 7 PM; gates open at 5:30 PM. In addition to a special performance by the DHS Blue & Gold Band and competition by seven outstanding drum and bugle corps, the program will include a special performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Tickets can be purchased at the stadium's box office, beginning at 2 PM on Saturday. Reserved seat tickets are \$18 and general admission tickets are \$15. For more info, see: www.downingtownclassic.com.

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Teri's Run & Walk

13th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk for Scleroderma will be held on Friday, September 5. The evening's events include: 6:30 PM – Kids Run, 7 PM – 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk, 8 PM – Awards Ceremony. Chip-Timed Walk and Run on fast, flat, spectator-friendly course that starts on Green Street in Downingtown. The run is dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle to Scleroderma. Register Online at www.terisrun.org.

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Downingtown area happenings in the early 20th Century

The Historical Society has access to a few microfilmed copies of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper, which was published from 1873 until 1974. Noted below are interesting items retrieved from the June 2, 1905 and March 22, 1906 editions.

Although there were only seven students in the class, the **DHS graduation** exercises in 1905 included three days, beginning on Sunday with the Baccalaureate ceremony at the Downingtown Opera House. And a Class Day was conducted at the Central School (grades one through twelve) on West Lancaster Avenue, the first time. Class Day was a light-hearted program that included singing, retelling of humorous events, and concluded with a “class yell.”

The *Archive* article on graduation included this comment on why those who attended commencement had to buy a ticket: “It is unfortunate that there is a charge for admission, but under the circumstances it cannot be helped. Sometime Downingtown may have an assembly room sufficiently large for special occasions.” Apparently, renting the Opera House for the commencement was included in the high school’s budget.

The June 2, 1905 *Archive* also noted that the men’s and boy’s cassocks, to be worn (by members of the choir?) at services at **St. James Episcopal Church** in Downingtown, were being made in London.

Also in that edition was information about the members of the Hancock GAR Post (Civil War veterans) who conducted services and decorated graves of veterans at Northwood and St. Joseph’s Cemeteries on **Memorial Day** morning. On Memorial Day afternoon, a parade marched from the Johnsontown section of the borough to Central Presbyterian Church, then on East Lancaster Avenue (located where the Dane Décor store is now) where an oration and speeches were delivered. The parade’s line of march included: Hancock GAR Post leader Samuel Banghart, chief marshal; carriages transporting speakers and elderly Hancock Post members; the Glenmoore Band; the Alert Fire Co. contingent, which included uniformed members who escorted their new, horse-drawn Studebaker sprinkler tank wagon, while 50 boys pulled a 1887 Rumsey hook and ladder wagon.

(Editor’s Note: According to the History of the Alert Fire Co., before the two horses were purchased in 1905 to pull the Silsby and Rumsey units, horses were borrowed from members of the fire company when there was a fire, or the apparatus was pulled by hand. The Studebaker sprinkler tank wagon also was used to sprinkle the borough streets to keep the dust down.)

Also in the 1905 issue, was an ad for Philip Green’s **bowling alley and pool room**, on Stuart Avenue, just above West Lancaster Avenue. The ad noted that a “Ladies Room” had been added to the facility.

Found in the March 22, 1906 *Archive*

The Archive’s March 22, 1906 edition included an article about a “graphic-picture lecture,” which included colored illustrations of scenes in Ancient Rome, presented at **St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**. Following the lecture, there was to be a presentation of “beautiful moving pictures produced by the Edison Projecting Kinescope.”

And the **Downingtown Tribe** of the Improved Order of Red Men, comprised of more than 100 members, celebrated its 20th anniversary. However, of the tribe’s 63 charter members, only 13 had survived after two decades. The celebration included music by the Downingtown Orchestra, presentation of information on the tribe’s history, and Chief Recorder John Dennis noted that there was more than \$5,000 in the local tribe’s treasury.

Also, **Craft's Livery Stable**, behind the Downingtown Railroad Station was advertising coaches for picnics and closed carriages for funerals.

Downingtown Fire Department old timers



This photo was taken last April, when there was a field fire on the former Lloyd Farm, which was recently sold by the Philadelphia Catholic Archdiocese. Shown in the shot above are, from left to right: Pat Butler, Tom Lee Jr., Bob Stevens and Vince Panetti. All told, they represent more than 195 years of service to the Alert Fire Co. and the Downingtown Fire Department.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, July 6. That means you'll have an opportunity to avoid getting sand in some bodily crevices you never knew you had, if you go down the Shore on Sunday. And instead of dealing with that gritty calamity, we suggest that you spend a quiet, temperature-controlled afternoon next Sunday, clipping and pasting newspaper articles at Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Square 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.

News stories about the Downingtown area in February 1947

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

A boys' dormitory and a classroom building on the campus of the **Downingtown Industrial School**, located on Route 322, between Downingtown and Guthriesville, was destroyed by a fire. An Army barracks and a Quonset hut were used as temporary quarters for the 65 boys who had been living in the dormitory.

And the historic **Harmony Hill School** also was destroyed by a fire that same month. Only the stone walls of the two-room school were left after Downingtown and West Chester firefighters put out the blaze.

A **memorial organ**, purchased by the Downingtown Postwar Planning Committee, was presented to Downingtown Junior-Senior High School. The dedication ceremony included a recital by organist Margaretta M. Helm, and solos were sung by Margaret Love and Earl Thomas. Also, the Community Chorus, directed by Robert Lenox, sang several numbers. Funds to buy the Hammond organ were raised via minstrel shows put on by local performers during the World War II days.

Allen Black, a former Downingtown resident, was executed in the **electric chair** at Rockview State Prison. Black was living in Phoenixville when he was convicted for the kidnap-murder of a Bucks County man.

Although the Whippet boys' basketball team lost all 10 games it played in Section 3 of the Suburban Conference, there was optimism in Downingtown. That's because the undefeated **Downingtown Junior High squad** won the county junior high championship for the third consecutive year, and more successes were expected when Joe Sciaretta, Pete and Bill Hayes, Tony Milano and Phil Boggs began playing for senior high.

Officers elected to be on the Council of **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**, Upper Uwchlan, included: Morris Griffith, vice president; Ray Woodland, secretary; John Kenney, treasurer; Dr. Cathryn Bishop, financial secretary; and Wilmer Bishop, cemetery treasurer.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church held a Valentine's Dance at the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown. The cost of admission was 75 cents per person.

Marshallton School students put on a program, which included performances by Patsy Miller, Betty Jo Hammond, Joseph Ferri, Robert McCue, Jo-Ann LeFevre, Carlene Yetter, John Ramsey, Betty Phillips, Robert Pierce, Barbara Whiteman, Dorothy Forsythe, Jane Anderson, Dale Ellingsworth, Doris Cann, Vernon Fellenbaum, John Rawson, Dolores Wilson, Edith Albertson, Clarence Wallace and Edith Smyers.

Newly-elected officers of the Women's Society of Christian Service at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were Mrs. P. Wesley Bare, president; Mrs. Houston Kennan, vice president; Mrs. Darwin Garrett, secretary; Mrs. Grier Miller, treasurer; Mrs. Larue Williamson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. James Keenan, membership committee chairman; and Mrs. Wilmer Ferrell, secretary of supplies.

Officers elected by members of the Washington Camp, **Patriotic Order of Sons of America**, Downingtown, included: Thomas Philips, president; Percy Windle, vice president; Leland Wilson, master of forms; William Barrett, conductor; Horace Carpenter, chaplain; Robert Mitman and John Mercer, sentinels; and John Bareford, lecturer.

Officers chosen to lead the Mission Band of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Mrs. Austin Moore, president; Mrs. John Fisher, vice president; Mrs. Joseph Brown, secretary; and Mrs. Norman Pannebaker, treasurer.

It's at 171 Indiantown Road in Glenmoore



No one correctly identified this house, built in 1883 at 171 Indiantown Road in Glenmoore. For more information on the house, click on: www.zillow.com/homedetails/171-Indiantown-Rd-Glenmoore-PA-19343/9159538_zpid/

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.

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Log House Art & Craft Show

The Borough of Downingtown is looking for vendors for its annual Log House Art & Craft Show, to be held Sunday, September 21, from noon - 4 PM at Kerr Park. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Handmade art, crafts and photography only. Those interested in learning more or applying to participate can visit the website: www.downingtown.org or call 610-269-0344.

Blood Drive

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Swinging Summer Saturday

The Downingtown Main Street Association will have a street festival from 5 PM to 10 PM on Saturday, August 9 in the "pocket park" on East Lancaster Avenue (next to Downingtown Country Gifts) in the borough. Local crafts people, restaurants and businesses that wish to participate should contact: manager@downingtownmainstreet.com for booth space applications and more details.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Reservations for the DHS Class of 1964's 50th class reunion are due by **July 31 (new deadline)**. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. Due to construction at DHS West, the homecoming date was moved to Oct. 17. So there will be no parade on Sept. 25. However, as part of the reunion, the class still plans to attend the football 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.

2 winners will get a playhouse

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous.

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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

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 32

August 7, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

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

Plans for the Exton-Lionville **Medical Arts building**, next to the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps facility on Welsh Pool Road, were presented to the Uwchlan Township supervisors. Partners in the project were Dr. Glenn Burkland, an orthodontist; Dr. Martin Binder, an obstetrician; Dr. Nicholas Spyropoulos, a pediatrician; and Dr. Alfred Mauriello, an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Marjorie Knowlton was elected president of the **Downingtown Woman's Club**. Also elected were: Mrs. Joseph McCahon, first vice president; Mrs. Edward Plank, second vice president; Mrs. Edward Kirkbride, recording secretary; Mrs. William Ash, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Jay Lammey, treasurer. Members of the board included: Mrs. Ralph Ralston, Mrs. John Collins, Mrs. Gilbert Hamm, Mrs. Thomas Brookover, Emily Lewis and Mrs. Lawrence Billau.

Officers elected by members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Horace Schanley, president; David Swindin, first vice president; Fred Longenecker, second vice president; Terry Donohue, third vice president; Bob Bowker, secretary; Bob Shoffner, treasurer; Jim Zaferes, tail twister; Bob Wagner, assistant tail twister; Mike Bem, lion tamer; Jim Ney, assistant lion tamer; Ted Jacobs, greeter; and Wally Houston, chaplain.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1545 Broad Run Road, West Bradford, \$62,500; 114 Viaduct Ave., Downingtown, \$29,500; 132 Baker Drive, Uwchlan, \$66,500; 109 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$84,000; 27 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$83,010; 1 Milford Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$66,000; 532 Indiantown Road, Wallace, \$40,500.

Billy Null, age 9; Glenn Koser, 14; and Mike Koser, 8, were **medal winners** at the AAU Grand National Freestyle Wrestling Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Nine members of the **Wallace Township Historical Commission** were participating in an archaeological dig at the site of the remnants of a building, constructed in the mid-18th Century, which burned down in 1890. Located at the intersection of Highspire and Springton Roads, the building probably had once housed a saddlery or harness shop, according to John Shrader, a member of the Historical Commission.

Harold "Bud" Thompson of Guthriesville, a doctoral candidate at Princeton University, was part of a team of scientists working on a fusion process as a safe source of energy.

Local contestants who were winners at the state **4-H competition** included Bonnie Shaw, Dorcas and Sarah Nothstine, Roberta Ekdahl and Lisa Kaplan.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 82** who won merit badges were Jeff Vincent, Dave Rowley, Paul Smith, Jake Edge, Robert and Chris McClarin, Mike Herthler and Peter Donia.

And members of **Boy Scout Troop 23** who went on a canoeing trip in Maine were Tom Waiboer, Bob Bayle, Vic Hagerstrom, John Goldman and Sean Sexton.

Downingtown area students returning to classes in September would be **prohibited from having tobacco** in their possession while attending school-sponsored activities and while riding on school buses. Punishment for first offenses was a five-day suspension, and a second offense would result in a 10-day suspension. Smoking by students in school had been prohibited for many years. And the School District's new **in-school suspension** policy required suspended students to stay at home during the school day, and then report to their respective schools to do assigned school work from 4 PM to 7 PM.

Medals given to local World War I veterans in 1919

We recently received a query from a collector about a medal with this inscription: "Welcome back from the service, July 4, 1919, Downingtown."

No, the medals were not given by the American Legion, because that group wasn't formed in Downingtown until 1920.

The medals were given to local World War I veterans by members of the Downingtown Business Men's Club at a 1919 banquet put on by the Downingtown Moose Lodge, at the Lincoln Stuart Building on Stuart Avenue.

We'd love to add one of those medals to our archival collection.

German POWs worked on Downingtown area farms

We know that German prisoners of war worked on several Downingtown area farms during World War II. And we're seeking information about those situations from local people who were related to the families that operated or helped on local farms where the POWs worked

Based on some information found at the Chester County Historical Society, we have determined that German POWs worked on these local farms:

West Bradford Township: Centerview Farm (now site of Broad Run Park), owned by the Hetricks family, plus the farms owned by the C. Harvey Young, Harold Martin and Harold Fellenbaum families.

West Whiteland Township: H. Russell Worthington's orchard, and the farms owned by the Henry Young and Charles Meredith families.

Upper Uwchlan Township: Farms owned by the Raymond Lynch and Anna Nott families.

Wallace Township: Farm owned by the Charles Wilson family

East Brandywine Township: Farm owned by the James Manley family.

All told, 425,000 German prisoners of war were brought to the U.S. during World War II. They stayed in 700 temporary camps located in 46 states. Most of the POWs who worked on local farms stayed in barracks in Philadelphia or Media. And they usually were transported to and from the farms in school buses.

They earned about 80 cents a day, which was roughly comparable to the pay American enlisted men received then. Part of their wages was used to help fund the POW program, a total of \$22 million in 1944. The balance of their pay (in "scrip" paper money) was pocket money they could spend at a POW camp canteen.

Information about POWs working in the U.S. wasn't publicized here during the war, to avoid fear of the enemy presence in such large numbers. But in areas where the camps were located and POWs worked, their presence was usually accepted. A 1943 poll showed that 74% of Americans blamed the German government for the war and they didn't hate German soldiers.

If you can provide us with information about German POWs working at any of the farms noted, or any other farms in the Downingtown area, please send it to:

Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

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Little League started in Downingtown 65 years ago

Little League Baseball is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and since the 2014 Little League World Series will begin next week, we think it's appropriate to retrieve information from earlier Hist-O-Grams about when Little League Baseball was first played in Chester County. That was 65 years ago, when the Downingtown Little League was established on June 30, 1949.

The founding officers were: Dr. George Bousum, president; Francis Tweed, vice president; Charles Emery, secretary; and Vinton Smedley, treasurer. And the original sponsors of teams were Pepperidge Farm, St. Anthony's Lodge, the Loyal Order of the Moose and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Games were played on the vacant lot on the southwest corner of Manor and Pennsylvania Avenues; where a backstop, dugouts, scoreboard and fence were installed.

The first official games, a doubleheader, were played on June 10, 1950. Opening day ceremonies included musical selections by the DHS marching band and an invocation by Father Daniel Hoy of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Burgess Lee Hamilton threw out the first ball.

In the opening contest, John Chilla, whose son and grandson eventually played in the league, tossed a five-hit gem for Pepperidge, beating the Moose 5-3. In the nightcap, Bill Stringer smacked the league's first homer, to help St. Anthony's edge the VFW 8-7.

Subsequently, Don Greenleaf informed Hist-O-Gram subscribers that the league's scoreboard was built by these local residents: Tab Swarner, carpenter; Messiah Lutheran Church's Rev. George Bass; Dr. George Bousum, dentist; Raymond Greenleaf, pharmacist, and others. Balls, strikes and outs on the scoreboard were displayed via red, green and yellow lenses donated by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Also, the first concession stand was adapted from the playhouse, formerly in the backyard of the Greenleaf property, where it had been used by his two sons.

And Bob Stevens told us that his father, Morris Stevens, an electrician, did the installation, wiring and hookup for the scoreboard. Bob also recalled, "I was ten years old at the time, and I was taught how to dig a trench from the backstop out to the scoreboard. Without saying, my dad did a lot more of the digging than I did."

Also, local residents watched the Downingtown Little League team win two televised games broadcasted on WCAU-TV in August 1951. John Bousum had six hits and struck out 11 batters. And Eddie Aumiller was on the mound and hit two doubles when the locals beat Hammonton, NJ, the previous year's national champions.

(Editor's Note: We wonder if any Hist-O-Gram reader has any part of a 1950s vintage Little League uniform, or photos of teams from that era or even years later? The Historical Society would love to add them to its archival collection. If you wish donate any Little League-related items, please contact us via Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.)

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It's at 521 W. Uwchlan Ave. (Route 113) in Uwchlan Twp.



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the above photo (taken by Mike Dunn) as 521 West Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113) in Uwchlan Township. Rahn knew that because his maternal aunt and uncle, Richmond D. Hocker and Ruth Dahms Hocker lived there in the late 1930's or early 1940's before moving to a new home in West Brandywine Township. Rahn said he never heard anything about the house once being a gas station, but his mother told him that house's second floor was added on after the Hockers lived there.

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DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Update: Although the registration deadline has passed, there is still room to reserve your spot for your 50th Class Reunion. Contact Judi Grubb Supplee at jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com ASAP. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. Due to construction at DHS West, the homecoming date was moved to Oct. 17. So there will be no parade on Sept. 25. However, as part of the reunion, the class still plans to attend the football game on Friday night, Sept 26. For more information see: <http://dhsclassof64.org/>.

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1909 edition of *Archive* focused on fatality resulting from huge fire at Bicking Paper Co. in Downingtown

Ralph Entriiken, a 17-year-old DHS student, suffered a fractured skull and was killed instantly when a 90-foot, iron chimney fell on him while he was helping to fight a huge fire on December 23, 1909 at the multi-story Bicking Paper Co. at Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues, where the Stella Rosa Restaurant is now located in the borough.

According to the December 24, 1909 edition of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper, the fire was discovered by employees, and an alarm was sounded at about 3 PM. Due to gale-force winds, the fire quickly spread over most of the Bicking property. But due to “the almost super-human efforts” and “miraculous work” by members of the recently-formed Minquas Fire Co. and the Alert Fire Co., prevented the fire from getting out of control and spreading to nearby buildings. Some 30 members of Coatesville’s Washington Fire Co. assisted the Downingtown firemen fight the blaze. The leadership skills of Jesse Roberts, fire marshall, and chiefs John Corcoran and Andy Breese were cited by the newspaper.

The fire, which was under control by about 5 PM, resulted in the destruction of the mill and its equipment. Most of the \$35,000 loss was partially covered by insurance.

A Christmas program, planned to be held at the high school, was cancelled due to Entriiken’s tragic death.

Editor’s Note: The December 24, 1909 issue of *The Archive* is the only 1909 edition known to be available on microfilm. However, we suspect that many Hist-O-Gram subscribers have actual copies of other editions of the weekly newspaper, published between 1873 and 1974, taking up valuable space in drawers and collecting dust in their homes. If you’re willing to pass your copies of *The Archive*, the *Daily Local News* or the *Coatesville Record*, on to the Historical Society, please contact us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalssociety.org.

Local news originally published 52 years ago

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

Margaretta Mahan Helm was elected chairman of the **Downingtownt Democratic Committee**. Other officers were Joseph Masterson, vice chairman; Helen Bird, secretary; Jane Ensinger, treasurer; Copeland Nichols, publicity chair; and Maurice Bird, registration chair.

Among the local youngsters who exhibited their **4-H animals** at the Kimberton Fair were Nancy and Charles Martin, Elizabeth and Mary Louise Herr, Samuel and Joan Acker, and Yvonne Evans.

Winners in the hopscotch competition at the **East Ward playground** were Debbie and Joyce Beam, Caroline Kline, Cindy Lee and Billy Snyder. And hopscotch winners at the **Lionville playground** included Pat Dunn, Darlene Windle and Mary Jane Panetti. Winners in the hobo competition at **Beaver Creek playground** were: Brenda Murphy, Joe DiBerardinis, Darlene and Denine Koth, Gary Bogush, Cel Tremul and Larry Charles. At the **Marshallton playground**, winners in the treasure hunt were Patty and Dennis Riggins, Jerry Barwell, Jerry and Don Wood, Bill and Tom Perdue, and Sandy and Jackie Weir.

Officers re-elected at the 37th annual **Old Romansville School reunion** included May Osborn, president; Walter Shofstall, vice president; Mrs. Dennie Smith, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Rena Love, recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. James Marsh and Mrs. Franklin Beale, entertainment co-chairs.

Rev. James Bartholomew was the new rector of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown. He succeeded Rev. Alfred Vail.

New officers of the **Downingtown Woman's Club's** Garden Class were Mrs. Lawrence Billau, chairman; Mrs. Arthur Anderson, vice chairman; Mrs. Ethan Berry, treasurer; and Mrs. Kenneth Woods, secretary. Committee chairs were: Mrs. John Frankenfield, conservation and birds; Mrs. Walter Hadfield, grounds and landscape design; Mrs. Ralph Kent, exhibits; Mrs. William Bender, horticulture; Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, finance; and Mrs. Edwin Johnson, flower show.

John W. B. Bausman and Harold Wilson were appointed to **Uwchlan Township's** Board of Supervisors by Chester County Judges Thomas Gawthrop and Thomas Riley. The appointments ended a controversy, which began when Board Chairman Charles Becker voted for John Sciamanda to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Devaney, who resigned earlier in the year. However, Sciamanda was not a registered voter at the time he was appointed, and then he made things more complicated when he, as well as Becker, voted to appoint Charles Martin as a supervisor, to fill the position of Russell Miller, who also had resigned. But Republican committeeman Harry Ruth joined the fray and circulated petitions, successfully advocating that Bausman and Wilson to fill the supervisor vacancies.

Rising from the ashes: Fine dining at the Eagle Tavern

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 Eagle Tavern of Chester Springs has a history of reinventing itself since its first license was issued in 1727. Built on the fork of two main roads, back then it could be found “Halfway between Chester and Conestoga on the King's Road”. Today, more simply, it is located on Route 100, one mile north of the PA Turnpike, in the village of Eagle. The Tavern has had many name changes over the years including the President Adams, Spread Eagle, The Little Eagle and The Eagle Hotel. After a disastrous fire several years ago, the new owners reopened the restaurant, keeping the name and it has remained a popular spot for local citizens and travelers to Chester County's farm area.

We were seated in the more intimate, small dining room off the main entrance. Our appetizers included Eagle Shrimp wrapped in bacon, large shrimp cocktail, and a wonderfully flavored Crab Pannikin. The well prepared filet mignon, mahi, and wild mushroom entrees, as well as the sea bass special, combined a variety of flavors for a delicious experience. The portions were more than adequate, thus we went home with several wonderful desserts including cannolis, lemon & cream cake, and a delicious cheesecake/carrot cake combination. Our dinner was complemented with selections from their wine list and bar. Good service and engaging conversation with the manager, made this dine out a winner.

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

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It's at 477 Dilworth Road in East Brandywine



Gregg Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 477 Dilworth Road in East Brandywine Township. The original part of the house was built in 1750. During much of the 20th Century, it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Dilworth and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dilworth.

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

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

Multi-Family Yard Sale

8 AM to 1 PM Saturday, August 16 at 429 Chesterfield Drive, Downingtown. Antiques, Christmas & Household items, etc.

Free ads for Non-Profits

"The Blob" to be shown at Kerr Park

The Downingtown Main Street Association will screen the 1958 version of "The Blob" in Kerr Park on Saturday night. The event will begin at 8 PM with Phil Dague (Mr. Downingtown) hosting "Blob Trivia" until it is dark enough to start the movie around 8:30 PM. The movie will be shown in the park near the Concert Pavilion (white gazebo), and is FREE. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The movie will be over by 9:45, so bring a blanket or your lawn chairs; and enjoy this fun classic that was partially filmed here in Downingtown.

Run For the Parks & Community Day

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Teri's Run & Walk

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The Borough of Downingtown is looking for vendors for its annual Log House Art & Craft Show, to be held Sunday, September 21, from noon - 4 PM at Kerr Park. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Handmade art, crafts and photography only. Those interested in learning more or applying to participate can visit the website: www.downingtown.org or call 610-269-0344.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Update: Although the registration deadline has passed, there is still room to reserve your spot for your 50th Class Reunion. Contact Judi Grubb Supplee at jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com ASAP. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. Due to construction at DHS West, the homecoming date was moved to Oct. 17. So there will be no parade on Sept. 25. However, as part of the reunion, the class still plans to attend the football game on Friday night, Sept 26. For more information see: <http://dhsclassof64.org/>.

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Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Farmers Market

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Banquet Room for rent

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 34

August 21, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

July 4th festivities in 1911 included a female parachutist

One of the big attractions, planned for the coming July 4th celebration in the borough, according to the June 24, 1911 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*, was a “lady parachutist” who would reach a “great height.” She apparently would leap from one of the two hot air balloons launched as part of the Independence Day festivities in the borough that afternoon.

Downingtown’s Business Men’s Association, which sponsored the July 4th celebration, also planned a baseball game, a cornet band concert and fireworks.

Another story in the 1911 edition was about a “porch party,” a fundraiser conducted one evening in June by the women of Downingtown Methodist Church. The party was held on the front porches of about half of the houses along Washington Avenue, between Chestnut and Green Streets, in the borough. On sale on the porches were candy, cakes, ice cream, and lemon and orange drinks. And to draw a large turnout, the town band played at one end of Washington Avenue, and an orchestra played at the other end.

Also noted in that issue was the hiring of Eleanor Robinson, by the East Brandywine Township School Board, for a salary of \$40 per month.

Local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items were published in local newspapers in the latter part of August 1962:

Officers of the **Lionville School PTA** were Gilbert Zellwanger, president; Mrs. Eric Bittmann, vice president; Mrs. Howard Stimson, secretary; Edward Panetti, treasurer;

Edward Novak, director of the Downingtown Area Recreation Summer Program reported that winners of the jumping contest at the **Lionville playground** were Steve Long, Clair Koser and Bob Dunn. And hopscotch winners were Helen Bittmann and Linda Wunsch.

Winners of the hobby show competition at the **Beaver Creek playground** were Grace DiBerardinis, Jane Forbes, Donald Lawrence, Betsy Robbins, Susie Geschwindt, Cel Tremul and Denine Koth. Hobby show winners at the **Marshallton playground** were Mike Riggins, Jerry Barwell and Garner Haines. And winners of the doll show contest at **East Ward playground** were Donna Usher, Missy Fidler, Kathy Valente, Mary Ann Natalie, Ricky McCardell, Terry Davis, Chuckie Daylor, Diana Lynn, Brenda Murray, Caroline Kline, Robin Thomas and Debbie Beam.

There was a choice of several styles of new houses being offered in the **Whitford Hills** development, adjacent to the Whitford Country Club. Price ranged from \$19,500 to \$30,500.

Marshallton Boy Scouts who went to Camp Horseshoe for a week were Robert Caldwell, Larry Amoriello, William Fowler, Ronald Donnon, Carl Harper, Joseph Kirkner, Steven Phillips, and Charles and Ronald Williams.

Boys from the **Glenmoore team**, who were named to the Twin Valley Pony League all-star team, were Barry Ortlip, Rick Harter, Gene Hannum, Bob Myers and Teddy Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Taylor, original owners of the **Dutch Cupboard** on Bondsville Road, Thorndale, sold the restaurant to Albert Mantini, who renamed the restaurant as the Dutch Arms. Currently, the restaurant is known as the **Thorndale Inn**.

Armand Taraschi, a “fiery councilman” who was a recently elected member of the Downingtown Borough Council, attacked plans to sell the borough’s water to neighboring municipalities because that would hinder Downingtown’s potential growth.

Winners of the balloon contest at the **Pickering Valley Women’s Club** picnic were Forrest and Loretta Gottier, Bruce Lockhart, Skip Briggs and Floyd Emery. The picnic committee included Mrs. Wilbur McQueen, Mrs. Ralph Moore, Mrs. Richard Wheatley and Nancy McQueen.

It's at 361 Fillman Road in Uwchlan Township



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as 361 Fillman Road in Uwchlan. Although the house appears to be older, it allegedly was built in 1880.

Visit us at East Brandywine's Community Day

The Historical Society will have a booth at East Brandywine's Community Day, held on Saturday August 23 at the township park at 466 Dilworth Road. The day begins at 8 AM with registration for the 5K run, 3K walk and 1K kids' walk, which start at 9:30 AM. Other events, starting at 11 AM, include: Shriner clowns on cycles, bagpipers and drummers, hay rides, fire company rescue demos, pony rides, free bingo, antique and classic cars, crafts and lots of delicious food. Everyone should bring a non-perishable food item for the Lord's Pantry, and receive a Chick-Fil-A coupon.

Seeking more women who served with a military medical unit

Three Downingtown area women, who served with the military in a medical-related capacity during a wartime period, have agreed to participate in a program planned by the Historical Society. They are Madeleine Woodruff and Julia Pollock, who both served as Army nurses during WW II, and Maureen Hayburn, who was part of a Red Cross unit in Viet Nam. The program is planned to be held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters, on a Sunday afternoon this Fall. Instead of making formal speeches, the women will talk about how and why they served in the military during a wartime period.

That means we're still seeking women, who served in a medical-related capacity during the wars in Korea or Iraq or Afghanistan, to participate in the panel discussion. Women who are interested in helping to make this program a success should send an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org, or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037,

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Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

If you missed last week's Hist-O-Gram, you can see it by clicking on:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/August%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, will have its annual Bar-B-Que 4-7 PM Saturday, August 23. Eat-in or take-out. \$13 for a dinner: half of chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage.

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Class of 1954 reunion

The DHS Class of 1954 will have its 60th reunion at Whitford Country Club on Saturday, Sept 20, beginning at noon with a social hour, followed by a dinner 1 PM. For more info, please contact frank.manetta620@comcast.net. Send reservations to Frank Manetta 620 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, Pa 19335.

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Vol. 5, No. 35

August 28, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

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

Glyn Jenkins, president of the **Downingtown Area Education Association**, said the new contract called for teachers to get an average raise of \$1,100. The two-year package included an 8.5 percent boost the first year, and an 8 percent raise the second year.

More than \$3.9 million, which was 32.1 percent of the **Downingtown Area School District's** total revenue (\$12.4 million), came from the state during the 1977-78 school year. Federal funds amounted to \$149,416 (1.2 percent), and revenue from local sources totaled \$8.2 million (66.7 percent).

Glen Wagner, who had been president of the Downingtown Area School Board for seven years, resigned because of ill health. Wagner, a Lyndell resident and executive vice president of G.O. Carlson Co., Thorndale, first became involved with local schools when he joined the East Brandywine Township School Board more than 25 years earlier.

Members of the Sunday School staff at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were: Sylvia Kipp, Erna Napoletano, Susan Hunt, Betty Petri, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradford, John Bradford, Jane Westley, Mary Forbes, Yvonne Petrillo, Martha Cohen, Fred Ford, Doris Zelina, Mary King, Len Snyder, Karen and Steve Shirk, Jane Davidson and Rev. Barry Ridge.

Recent **property transfers** included: 56 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$85,581; 1660 Suzanne Drive, West Bradford, \$68,000; 213 Llandoverly Drive, Uwchlan, \$50,990; 31 Norwood House Road, Downingtown, \$33,000; 134 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$68,500; 5 Marty Close Road, Wallace, \$65,900; 13 Christine Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$75,000.

Tenants at the John Riccardo's new **Four Js Mini Mall** at 123 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, were Talucci's Butcher Shop, the Bakery Outlet, Marvin's Garden, and Downingtown Travel Agency.

DHS **field hockey** coach Jean Shiffer acknowledged it definitely was a rebuilding year, with only two returning players with varsity experience—Jeanne Minahan and Joy Branahan. The only other seniors expected to see much varsity action were Kelly Garnett, Bonnie McKee and Amy Sten.

Returning letter winners on Coach Becky Desmond's DHS **girls' tennis team** were co-captains Debbie Hannum and Lauri Carcella, Kim Hess, Lisa Seymour and Pam Smith.

The **West Bradford Fire Company's** 25th anniversary celebration included a parade with 90 pieces of firefighting equipment and the housing of two new Ward LaFrance pumpers—1,000-gallon and 750-gallon capacity—plus a 1973 Dodge rescue truck.

Rich McCarter's two homers led the Burroughs team to the **Downingtown Slo Pitch League** championships with a 4-3 win over the DiBernardi's Store squad.

Dick Chappell, chief umpire, presented mugs to following umpires at the **Downingtown Little League** banquet: Pete Karahalas, Pete Burkey, Ken Harmon, Brownie Sigel, Bill Zynn, Don Millward, John Hurley, Barry Sample, Pat Brown, Randy Noler, Ed Klunk, Tom Corrigan, Don Morrow, Les Winkler, John Rodgers and Don Barber.

Members of the Live Wire Bible Class executive board at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Sara Brown, president; Mrs. Charles Steeley, vice president; Mrs. George Wagner, secretary; Mrs. Thomas Brookover, treasurer; Mrs. Attmore Pollock, past president; Mrs. Theodore Forbes, cheer chairman; and Mrs. Chester Woodward, ways and means chairman.

More info about house at 361 Filman Road

Local historians Susannah Brody and MaryLou Buchenauer provided information on the house at 361 Filman Road in Uwchlan Township, which was in the What & Where Is This? photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram, allegedly was built in 1880. However, it looked like a much older building.

Buchenauer informed us that historian Estelle Cremer's research for the Uwchlan Township Historical Commission determined that William John probably built the house sometime between 1790 and 1820. And Brody told us that another local historian, Jane Davidson, had filed an application in 1980 for the house to be placed on the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places, noted that the Georgian style, stone and frame house was built ca. 1755.

Obviously, the construction date mystery has yet to be solved, but it's one of the reasons why history can be fun.

Buchenauer also sent us the photo below, of the beehive oven, which has been part of the house for many years. During the 18th and 19th centuries, many homes in the United States had a beehive ovens, which were used to bake bread, pies, crackers, or other baked goods. Coal and kindling were used to heat the oven.

Beehive oven at 361 Filman Road in Uwchlan



Bright moon, four dogs and a great meal

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

The Four Dogs Tavern, originally the stable for the historic Marshalton Inn, offers a delightful, yet casual, dining experience. Located on Strasburg Road in Marshallton, the eatery served as a stopping point for travelers between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Since 1795, the building evolved from a stable with livestock, to a series of shops, housed within the original stalls. In 1978 it was converted to The Oyster Bar restaurant, and was renamed the Four Dogs Tavern in 1996, by its new owners. The tavern's emblem of four foxhounds—Marcano, Sereno, Lentenor and Nicanor—in a print by the famous French painter, Louis Jadin.

We were seated on the charming, outdoor patio, and by the end of the meal, were treated to a view of the much publicized bright moon. We enjoyed a series of appetizers, including a Spanish Cheese Plate, Crab Nachos and a wonderful Beet and Arugula salad. The main entrees were outstanding. Our guests raved about the Spicy Tuna, served in more than ample portions. The Horseradish Encrusted Salmon was unique and delicious, and the Filet of Beef was done to perfection. Key Lime Pie and Blueberry Ice Cream topped off the meals. The tavern offers a nice selection of beers and wine. Service was friendly and attentive.

The tavern is open year-round. No reservations are needed, but it's a busy place. So we recommend that you call ahead to get on the wait list. You can enjoy the patio in summer or the warmth of the fireplace in winter while listening to live music, and the restaurant is dog friendly. All in all, it is a fun place to dine.

We want to thank Four Dogs Tavern for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's second annual “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.

Seeking women who served in military in any capacity

The Historical Society had broadened the scope of the planned panel program involving Downingtown area women who served in the military during wartime. Initially, we were going to limit the participants to those who served in a military-related capacity, but that limitation was too restrictive.

So, now the panel will be comprised of any Downingtown area women who served in **any capacity** in the military during WW II, Korea, Iraq or Afghanistan. And instead of making formal speeches, the women will talk about their experiences during a wartime period.

The program is planned to be held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters, on a Sunday afternoon this fall. Women who are interested in participating in this program should send an email to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037.

It's at 1658 Bondsville Road in East Brandywine Twp.



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as the multi-family dwelling at 1658 Bondsville Road, across from the former Collins and Aikman plush mill, in East Brandywine Township.

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Vol. 5, No. 36

September 4, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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It's a scene in the Downingtown Diner in "The Blob"



Trauti Stevens is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo (provided by Phil Dague) as a scene in the Downingtown Diner in the 1958 film classic, "The Blob." And if you check out the diner's wall in the background, you can see a poster for "St. Joseph's Church Festival." Back in the summer of 1957, when this film was made, did St. Joe's in Downingtown have a festival?

One of the local teenagers who watched the filming of the diner scene in Downingtown was Bob Stevens, a teenager who lived around the corner from the diner at that time. "With all of the activity taking place at the corner of Lancaster and Downing, I spent most nights watching a movie being made. What excitement in our small town.

"At one point, an announcement was made that anyone who wished to be in the movie, would need to sign a paper. I jumped at the idea. They explained that we would be in a street scene and running down Lancaster Ave. I wish I still had a copy of the letter, but I do not recall if we received a copy of it. I must admit that I have never seen myself in any of the scenes, so I am sure that scene was on the cutting room floor."

Stevens also noted that an Alert Fire Co. fire truck was in the movie and the fire chief, Earl Stern, was to say a few lines in the movie. Stern tried many times, but could not get the lines out

correctly. So, claims Stevens, he was replaced by Rev. Tom Ogden, pastor of the Downingtown Methodist Church at the time.

Rev. Tom Ogden as Fire Chief in “The Blob”



Rev. Tom Ogden, right, pastor of Downingtown Methodist Church, in a scene as the Fire Chief of the Downingtown Fire Department in “The Blob.” That’s Steve McQueen on the left. Photo provided by Larry Meredith.

More info about “The Blob”

Basically, the movie is about a mysterious creature from another planet, resembling a giant blob of jelly, which lands on earth. The people of a nearby small town refuse to listen to some teenagers who have witnessed the blob's destructive power. In the meantime, the blob just keeps on getting bigger.

Shown in the photo above, Steve McQueen (playing in his first starring role) and his girlfriend, plus a waitress and the diner owner are trapped in the diner. And the Blob—now a ginormous red mass from the people it already consumed—was about to engulf the diner. However, the film’s main characters sneaked down into the diner’s cellar so they couldn’t be harmed.

Meanwhile, after Steve’s teenage friends retrieve 20 fire extinguishers from the nearby high school (actually the old Spring City HS), they use the fire extinguishers to freeze the Blob before it is ultimately flown to the Arctic in an Air Force cargo plane.

As many of you know, Phoenixville’s annual Blobfest has capitalized on the film’s “running out” scene connection from the Colonial Theatre. However, critical parts of the campy horror movie were filmed in Downingtown.

Some facts about “The Blob”

- McQueen once said of his role: "The main acting challenge in this one consisted of running around bug-eyed and shouting, 'Hey, everybody, look out for the Blob!' "

- Much of the movie was filmed at Director Irvin Yeaworth's Good News Productions studio in Chester Springs. The film company had previously had limited its efforts to educational, inspirational and religious movies. The six-week shooting schedule called for the cast and crew to work up to 20 hours a day, six days a week.
- The film only cost less than \$200,000 to produce, but it grossed \$4 million. McQueen was only paid \$3,000; he turned down a 10% of the profits option because he didn't think the movie would make any money.
- The film's title song, entitled "Beware of The Blob," was written by Burt Bacharach and Mack David, and became a nationwide hit.
- The Blob was made of silicone, with increasing amounts of red vegetable dye added as it "absorbed" people.

A royal meal served at the Beaver Creek Tavern

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

The Village of Fisherville saw the King's Highway Inn reopen as The Beaver Creek Tavern in 2010. As the center of local commerce during the 18th & 19th centuries, the village and the inn sat in close proximity to The Beaver Creek, former site of several mills producing items such as blue jeans and ground flour. Fisherville later became a residential community, and the new Beaver Creek Tavern provides a wide menu of Chester County cuisine and seasonal specials in a casual, Early American atmosphere.

Our meal started with a variety of well-prepared and tasty appetizers, including a bountiful portion of Beaver Creek Tri-colored Tacos and toppings, Beer-Battered Mushrooms with Wasabi sauce and Duck Dumplings with Mandarin/Ginger sauce. The night's menu featured Prime Rib, a large, hearty entrée. Pasta favorites included Shrimp and Scallops Savoy in Red Sauce made with White Wine and Tarragon and Pasta Sostanza, a nice mixture of Rotini, Mushrooms, Artichokes and Spinach. Other fish and meat entrée's looked enticing as well.

We capped off the meal with a scrumptious Pumpkin Cake with Cream Cheese Icing. The Tavern Bar serves a wide variety of beers, including local breweries on tap, wine and liquor. Service was efficient, informative and lots of fun, thanks to longtime server Carol.

This is a royal gem of a restaurant. If you are looking for a local eatery, excellent food and service at reasonable prices, travel up the Old Kings Highway (Rt. 340) to The Beaver Creek Tavern. Reservations are suggested for the weekends.

We want to thank The Beaver Creek Tavern for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's annual "A Taste of Chester County" fundraiser.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, September 7 at Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

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Alumni Association

The DHS Alumni Association's monthly meeting will be held at 7 PM Wednesday, Sept. 10, at DHS West, 445 Manor Avenue, Downingtown - Room 135. Please enter from the rear of the building (Door 3-7).

Fall Fun Festival

In addition to a bake sale and lunch, other attractions at the festival, from 8 AM to 2 PM Saturday, September 13, at Marshallton Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will be a flea market. Vendors' fees are \$22.50 per space and \$5 per table if needed.

Golf tournament

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September 11, 2014

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Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items which were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* during the latter part of September 1978.

Borough residents were invited to participate in the formation of the **Downingtown Historical Society**. The article noted that: the earliest record of land in Downingtown was in 1681; in 1716, Peter Bezellion laid out the road (now Lancaster Avenue) that connected Philadelphia with Indian villages to the west, but there was no road west of the Brandywine; there was food commissary in Downingtown for the American troops during the Revolutionary

War; and President James Buchanan learned of his fiancée's death while staying at the Halfway House in Downingtown.

Officers of the Philathea Class of **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, included: Mrs. Harry Dewees, president; Mrs. Clara Emery, vice president; Mrs. Elmer Matthews, secretary; and Mrs. Ernest Rodney, treasurer.

Officers elected to lead the **Golden Age Club**, which met at Downingtown United Methodist Church, were Ernie Smedley, president; Aubrey Dawson, vice president; Dot Thomas, treasurer; and Hazel Miller, secretary. Committee chairpersons were Gene Charles, hospitality; Sara Wood, program; Sara Perkins, sunshine; Helen Watkins, bus trips; and Hap Charles, public relations.

DHS students Arthur Freas III, Kathie Plante and Steve Wisdom were semi-finalists in the **National Merit Scholarship** program.

Girl Scouts from **Cadette Troop 1242, West Bradford**, who spent a week camping in Canada, were Dawn Cochrane, Laura Evans, Tammie McGrady, Suzanne McHugh, Donna Mull, Betsy Supplee, Leslie and Lois Tompkins, Barbara Whiteman and Kim Wyatt.

Student leaders of the **DHS marching band** were Jerry Ware and Michele McKibbin, drum majors; Nancy Yetter, silk squad captain; Sharon Clayton, pom-pom squad captain; Gina Poluch, majorette captain; and Leslie Semple and Marcia Basehore, rifle squad co-captains. Gary Wagner was band director; Michael Givler was assistant director, and Marianne Murtaugh was in charge of the pom-pom girls and majorettes.

Recent **property transfers** included: 330 Gwynned Court, Uwchlan, \$45,015; 47 Suffolk Court, East Brandywine, \$48,650; 6 Cambridge Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$63,500; 1543 Broad Run Road, West Bradford, \$64,700; 6 Marty Close Road, Wallace, \$73,767; 153 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$25,000; and 12 Downing Circle, East Caln, \$108,000.

Photo of Brandywine Band taken by William South



From Chester County Historical Society's photo archives

William South took this photo of Downingtown's Brandywine Band in about 1905. The shot was taken in front of Pawling's Meat Market on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough.

Downingtown's William South was a color photography pioneer

William South, one of the pioneers of color photography, lived in Downingtown. And South's story has been posted on Wikipedia by Jim LaDrew, retired photo finisher and a Downingtown historian, and Pamela Powell, the Chester County Historical Society's photo archivist.

According to Powell, "South was a Renaissance man who had many talents, not only as an inventor, but also as an artist and musician. He changed and adapted according to the situation."

Born in 1872 in Downingtown, South was a successful commercial photographer, working for railroad and steamer lines at the turn of the 19th Century. He was fascinated with the pioneering work of Arthur Louis Ducos DuHauron, who created a color photograph in 1868 by superimposing layers of red, blue and yellow pigments. South made improvements on DuHauron's idea and patented a camera that took three identical images at once through orange, violet and green filters. When these negatives were printed, using successive printings with corresponding red, blue and yellow pigments, it created a color photograph with the appearance of a watercolor.

South patented his camera and process in 1904, and named it the Solgram Color Photograph. He built a factory on St. Joseph's Alley in the Johnsontown section of Downingtown to manufacture paper and chemicals.

He had difficulty marketing the process because Eastman Kodak did not allow their dealers to sell products of other makers. He unsuccessfully sued Kodak long before anti-trust laws put an end to the practice.

South also ran a school for commercial photographers called the Keystone School of Photography at the site of his Downingtown factory.

Besides being a talented photographer, South was also a gifted violinist. He retired from photography and became the manager of the Premier Dance Orchestra, gave music lessons and built violins. He and his students gave performances at the Old Fiddlers' Picnics in the 1920s.

The archives of the Solgram Color Photo Co.--including business records, photographs, patents and advertising materials--are in the Chester County Historical Society's collection. A guide is available on the website at www.chestercohistorical.org/photo-search.

His photographs were featured at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in a 1989 exhibition, selected from Philadelphia area public collections as part of the Photography Sesquicentennial Project.

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This Simpson's Store was on Village Ave. in Lionville



Many people thought the Simpson's general store in the photo above was the one operated for many years by Bob Simpson in Eagle. However, Russ Faller was a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify it as James Simpson's store on Village Avenue in Lionville.

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Performances by [Jeanette Lynne](#) (noon-2 PM) and [Gina](#) & Jack (2 PM-4 PM). Vendor spaces are \$25.

Vendor application and information can be found at: www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html

Fall Fun Festival

In addition to a bake sale and lunch, other attractions at the festival, from 8 AM to 2 PM Saturday, September 13, at Marshallton Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will be a flea market. Vendors' fees are \$22.50 per space and \$5 per table if needed. Proceeds benefit United Methodist missions. For more information, call Doug at 610-696-7657.

East Brandywine History

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a program on Bridge Mill Farm, which was part of a 180-acre parcel purchased in 1739 by John Culbertson. The farm contained an industrial center, which supplied its residents with everything from running water to gas lighting, and its outside customers with everything from butter to sawdust and wool. It's the only home in East Brandywine that's listed on the National Historic Register. The program will be presented at 3:30 PM Sunday, September 21 at the East Brandywine Township Building on Route 322 in Guthriesville. For more information contact Carol Schmidt at carolsinex@gmail.com

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 27, from 10 AM to 2 PM. 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, Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Soccer Program

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Hickory Park, 351 Park Rd., Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning on Sept. 6. The free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We also need high school students to help out as one-on-one buddies -- no soccer experience necessary. For more info and to register, go to: www.geyasoccer.org.

Historical Program

West Caln Historical Society will offer a program on the "Massacre of the Conestoga in Lancaster by the Paxton Boys," presented by Jack Brubaker (a/k/a the Scribbler), author, historian, and Lancaster newspaper correspondent, at 7 PM Tuesday, Sept. 16 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The program is free and all are welcome.

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Downingtown area news 98 years ago

Noted below are news items published in the August 24, 1916 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*. It was characterized as an annual “Booster” issue, since the issue focused on the area’s progress in the current year. And the Downingtown weekly newspaper had much to crow about in 1916.

The **Frank Miller Paper Co.** added a paper box factory, and when construction of the company's new paper mill is completed, it will employ about 500 men. Also building additions were the S. A. Bicking Paper Co., the Downingtown Manufacturing Co., the Rowe Motor Co. and the Kerr Paper Co.

Also, the **Philadelphia Brass Works**, recently established a plant on the former property of the Cohansey Glass Works on Chestnut Street.

And the **Eastern Chair and Novelty Co.** plant in East Downingtown claimed to be the nation's "leading manufacturer" of fiber chair seats, which had "every appearance of genuine leather." One of its biggest customers was the 1,000 chain stores operated by the Woolworth Co.

The **Chester Valley Electric Co.** had recently strung power distribution lines along the Lancaster Pike to Whitford and Exton, so farmers in those areas could have lighting and run motors in their barns.

With all the industrial growth, that meant an increased population and a need for more classrooms. So the basement of the **high school** on West Lancaster Avenue was remodeled to accommodate three more classrooms for "white children and one room for colored children." (The high school in 1916 was part of the Central School, grades 1-12, until a new high school was opened on Manor Avenue in 1932. Then the former Central building housed the West Ward Elementary School for several decades.) Students had to pass an entrance exam to enroll in the high school. And teachers' monthly salaries ranged between \$60 and \$75 per month.

Jane Ringwalt, Susan Hoopes and Mrs. George Fisher had invited several local women to meet in the parlors of the Minquas Fire Co., to form the **Downingtown Woman's Club** on October 14, 1914. And by 1916, the club's membership had reached 100. (The club will celebrate its 100th anniversary at a Centennial luncheon on September 24).

The **Country Club of the Philadelphia YMCA**, established southwest of the borough line in West Bradford in 1898, was "becoming more popular each year, as an ideal place for young men from Philadelphia to spend their weekends and vacations." The 479-acre "resort" included six cottage-dormitories, a dining hall which could accommodate 150, and tennis courts.

Improvements and changes among local churches in 1916, were the new Sunday School addition built by **Central Presbyterian**, and the establishment of an orchestra, under the direction of Professor William Caulfield, at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**. And **Windsor Baptist Church** in Upper Uwchlan had a new baptistery and communion table, and the parsonage had been painted and cement sidewalks were installed outside.

The **Downingtown Opera House** was showing movies on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights; admission was 5 cents and 10 cents.

The **Downingtown Moose Lodge**, which had 52 charter members when it was founded in 1912, had increased in size to nearly 300 members in 1916, and had its own orchestra.

The **I.J. Dietz store** at 117 E. Lancaster Ave. was advertising "good reliable school shoes," whose prices ranged from \$1.20 to \$2.50.

And local folks had two options when considering custom-tailored clothes: **A. Travaglini** on Brandywine Avenue or **Domenico D'Attilio** at 137 W. Lancaster Ave.

While G.P. McIntire was selling **Fords** for as little as \$325 in East Downingtown, W.N. Howe was offering **Cadillacs**, at 115 E. Lancaster Ave. for as much as \$2,120. And prices at the Downingtown Motor Co., 206 E. Lancaster Ave., for a new **Buick** ranged from \$685 for a roadster to \$1,055 for a 5-passenger touring car.

Local news originally published 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers published in April 1947.

Officials from the Downingtown Borough and Caln Township **School Districts** worked out the details of which properties in Caln would be annexed by the borough. Property owners on the eastern end of Caln had petitioned the borough about a year earlier to become part of the Downingtown School District.

Members of the Downingtown Branch of the **Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** elected the following officers: Mrs. John Miller, president; Mrs. Edward Sharp, first vice president; Mrs. Donald White, second vice president; Mrs. William Reed, recording secretary; and Mrs. James Wood, treasurer.

Girl Scouts invested into **Troop 10, Marshallton**, included Edith Albertson, Edith Smyers, Carlene Yetter, Caroline Fern and Dolores Wilson. Leaders of the troop were Dorothy Gray and Lilley-Anne Gyger.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a weekend at Camp Horseshoe were Robert and Charles Bunting, Raymond Fellenbaum, Fred Martin, Carl Bone, Dannie Place, Donald Fraim, Kenneth Trimble, Pete McCue, James and Donald Laney, Ronald Yetter, and Jack and Robert Sellers.

Mrs. William Bender, captain of the **Red Cross** drive in Wallace Township, reported that her team had surpassed their goal. Members of the team were Mrs. John Adams, Mrs. Noah Sensenig, Mrs. William Rigg, Mrs. Robert Kerstetter and Jane McLaughlin.

Record attendance, 456 people, came to the **DHS Alumni Association's** 60th annual banquet, held at the Alert Fire Co., Downingtown. Music was provided by a brass quartet, comprised of Class of 1947 members Raymond Kipp and Nancy Walleigh, trumpet; Bob Lillard and Dane Kline, trombones; plus Katherine Mosteller on piano.

Newly installed officers of the **Brandywine Lodge of Odd Fellows**, Downingtown, included: C.A. Woodard, past grand; Harry Brown Jr., noble grand; Allen Popjoy, vice grand; Creston Shoemaker, warden; Herbert Kreider, right supporter to the noble grand; Gilbert Cox, chaplain; Allen Woodward, right supporter to the vice grand; and Ralph Kinsey, left supporter.

In addition to serving dinners daily, guests could buy "legal beverages" at the **Colonial Inn** on West Lincoln High, Downingtown.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Woman's Club** were: Mrs. John Fisher, president; Mrs. Lee Hamilton, first vice president; Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, second vice president; Mrs. William Bender, recording secretary; Mrs. Walter Snyder, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Herman Faucett, treasurer.

The following members of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** were elected to serve for three years: Mrs. Wayne Millard, president; Mrs. Elmer Matthews, first vice president; Mrs. Sara Abel, recording secretary; Mrs. George Benham, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Parke Plank, treasurer.

Elected as officers of the Woman's Missionary Society at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan, were Mrs. Walter Garvine, president; Mrs. Morris Dewees, vice president; Mrs. Harvey Funderwhite, secretary; and Mrs. Oscar Darlington, treasurer.

Student Council officers at DHS were Kenneth McCardell, president; Thomas DiOttavio, vice president; Gilda Fazzini, secretary; and Austin Windle, treasurer.

Happy Days Farm in Lionville was selling fire equipment, including a 1924 Reo speedwagon and a Hale centrifugal pumper on a trailer.

Inducted as officers of the **Pilgrim Lodge of Odd Fellows**, Lionville, were Kenneth Kirkner, noble grand; Schuyler Rennard, vice grand; Clinton Smedley, warden; Harry Quay, chaplain; Samuel Supplee, conductor; Warren Supplee, right scene supporter; James Thackery, left scene supporter; Leon Gordon, outside guardian; Edwin Smedley, inside guardian; Sherman Kirkpatrick, right supporter to the noble grand; Everett Wilson, left supporter to the noble grand; Horace Wilson, left supporter to the vice grand.

From the Dutch Cupboard to The Thorndale Inn

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

The original property, purchased from William Penn in 1698, was used as a water, corn, or grist mill until the original house, dating from the late 18th or early 19th centuries, was sold in 1933 to Wilson and Pauline Bicking. In 1938, the Bickings sold the property to Jackson and Eleanor Taylor who turned the old farmhouse into The Dutch Cupboard restaurant. After the Taylors operated it for 24 years, the restaurant changed hands several times, before it became Al Mantini's Dutch Arms before receiving its current name The Thorndale Inn in 1974. The latest owner, Sam Estephan, has been running the Inn for the past 23 years.

Our luncheon party of 10 was seated in the comfortable, smaller dining room, where we chose from a full menu featuring appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. Our group chose a nice selection of appetizers including a well-proportioned and varied Seafood Combo featuring Shrimp Cocktail, Shrimp Lejon, Scallops, Clams Casino and Crab Cakes. This was complemented by a freshly prepared Caesar Salad. Additional selections included homemade Lobster Bisque, Crab Fritters with Mango Sauce and Chicken Mediterranean sautéed in garlic and lemon juice.

Service was efficient for our party, including a children's selection recommendation for the tots. And the restaurant offers a full selection of wine, beer & liquor.

The Thorndale Inn accommodates large and small dining parties, has a comfortable, casual bar, as well as outside seating as weather permits.

We want to thank The Thorndale Inn for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's second annual “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser, which will be conducted this fall.

How to subscribe to our free Hist-O-Grams

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

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

It's at 681 Fairview Road in Wallace Township



Sandy Brannan, life-long Wallace Township resident and long-time archivist, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 681 Fairview Road, Glenmoore. Sandy also noted that much of the house's history was cited in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's blog on "Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories," a survey of archival collections held by the many small, primarily volunteer-run historical organizations in the Philadelphia area. According to Howson family papers (1849-1952) in the Wallace Township's archives, the Henry Howson family's primary residence was in Philadelphia, but it also had a summer home called Brae Head Farm in Wallace Township. Brae Head functioned not only as a summer home, but also as a farm. Henry Howson, Jr. (1859-1937) was involved in the local Fairview Presbyterian Church's annual flower, fruit, and vegetable exhibition, both as an organizer and as an exhibitor, from the establishment of the competition in 1897 until at least 1920. For more info about the property, see: www.trulia.com/property/3055068801-681-Fairview-Rd-Glenmoore-PA-19343.

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

Free ads for Non-Profits

Art & Craft Show

Downingtown Borough will be holding the annual Log House Art & Craft Show from noon-4 PM on Sunday, September 21 at Kerr Park. Hopewell Boy Scout Troop 8 will be selling refreshments. Performances by [Jeanette Lynne](#) (noon-2 PM) and [Gina](#) & Jack (2 PM-4 PM). Vendor spaces are \$25. Vendor application and information can be found at: www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html

East Brandywine History

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a program on Bridge Mill Farm, which was part of a 180-acre parcel purchased in 1739 by John Culbertson. The farm contained an industrial center, which supplied its residents with everything from running water to gas lighting, and its outside customers with everything from butter to sawdust and wool. It's the only home in East Brandywine that's listed on the National Historic Register. The program will be presented at 3:30 PM Sunday, September 21 at the East Brandywine Township Building on Route 322 in Guthriesville. For more information contact Carol Schmidt at carolsinex@gmail.com

Drug Take-Back Day

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 39

September 25, 2014

Where and What Is This?



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

Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in early September 1962.

Although a few residential areas of West Whiteland had been receiving **home delivery of mail** via motor routes, all of the Exton area began to receive mail at home after a house numbering system was established throughout the township. "We used Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia plan, with even numbers on the south and west sides of a street, and odd numbers on the north and east sides," explained township supervisor Harold Martin. Also, the Whitford Post Office was to be closed.

A total of 617 students were attending schools in the **Pickering-Brandywine School District**, comprised of the Brandywine-Wallace, Chester Springs and Upper Uwchlan Elementary Schools. The total included more than 100 kids enrolled in the district's first kindergarten class. And about 400 books were donated by members of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League** for the school district's libraries.

Officers elected to lead the Indiantown School and Wallace High School reunion association were Jack Beard, president; Charles Earnshaw, vice president; Mrs. Florence Irey, secretary; and Mrs. Bess Foreman Smedley, treasurer.

Donald Greenleaf was named assistant borough manager in Downingtown. He had been active in the borough government since 1953.

Appointed as committee chairmen by Mrs. Frank Gottier, president of the **Pickering Valley Woman's Club**, were Mrs. Richard Wheatley, sunshine; Mrs. Samuel Acker, and Mrs. Jacob Dewees, cake; Mrs. Wilbur McQueen, program; Mrs. Raymond Briggs, Mrs. Alton Reed and Mrs. Norman Frank, telephone; Mrs. Paul Gottier, welfare; and Mrs. Forrest Gottier, publicity.

Members of the **Village League of the Uwchlans**, who were models in the organization's fashion show at the Lionville Elementary School, were Mrs. William Bolig, Mrs. Lloyd Geare, Mrs. Francis Hill, Mrs. William Meredith, Mrs. Walter Mitchell, Mrs. Garfield Smith and Mrs. George Smith.

The 11 members of **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, who attended a retreat at Bucknell University were Bob Arters, Howard and William Beale, Edward and Christian Crane, Bill Broomell, Charles Mull, Clem Regener, Bud Koth, Bob Mertz and John Madiro.

Members of **Cub Pack 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, were challenged by their mothers to play a softball game. The game, played at the Guthriesville School playground, ended in a 7-7 tie. Cubs who played were Joe Seeds, Frank Watters, Ed Fryberger, Bruce Welsh, Jeff and Mike Shaw, Irv Nailor, Brian Boothroyd, Ray Burkey, Don Campbell, Chuck Haas and Dennie Shore. The mothers' team was comprised of Jean Welsh, Nellie Burkey, Dot Seeds, Toddy Haas, Shorty Burkey, Mary Boothroyd, Zilla Shaw and Fran Nailor.

Elected as officers of the Philathea Class at **St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church** in Lionville were: Mrs. Dorothy Rennard, president; Mrs. Norman Jenkins, vice president; Mrs. Emmett Gordon, secretary; and Mrs. Frances Shaeffer, treasurer.

Highlights from 1959 issues of the *Blue and Gold*

Ron Tipton, DHS Class of 1959, who was in Downingtown for a class reunion last weekend, brought a bunch of neat stuff from his high school days to Ashbridge House. Among them were several copies of the student newspaper we didn't have in our archival collection.

Highlights from the issues of the *Blue and Gold* Tipton donated included:

- Students who sang solos in the Christmas program, put on by the Junior and Senior High Music Department, were Julia Asparagus, Ann Gault, Mary Ellen Crosby, Eleanor Robinson and Nancy Jefferis. Accompanists were Margaret Harrison, Linda Poole, Helen Simmons, Helen Burkhart, Evelyn Eshleman and Joan White.
- Winning participants in the bowling competition were Pam Renz, Paula Tweed, Nancy Gindin, Donna Thompson, Bonnie Walton, Marty Johnson, Susan Whittaker, Bonnie Dawson and Carol Shisler.
- Juniors who were in the cast in the student production of "Harvey" were: Dallett Norris, Barbara Wagner, Joan Kent, Eileen Mercer, Connie Gara, Dave Henderson, Dave DiLuigi, Nan Kohls, Mike Echols and Don Miles.
- Members of the *Blue and Gold* staff, who went to the annual high school press conference at Columbia University in New York City, were Jeanne Emery, Joan Kent, Pat Mitchell, Barbara Dinn, Sonia Raysor, Polly Weber, Mike Echols and Dallett Norris.

- John (Bucky) Rogers, a sophomore, won the Downingtown Optimist Club's oratorical contest. Other DHS competitors were Lewis Wilson and Joseph West.
- Steve Pope was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.
- Buddy White and Joe Arasim were named the Whippet gridders' outstanding back and lineman, respectively, at the dinner given at St. Anthony's Lodge. DHS was co-champion of the Ches-Mont League.

DHS Class of 1959 at 55th reunion



Shown in the photo above are members of the DHS Class of 1959 who attended their 55th reunion last Saturday at the Downingtown Country Club. They are, left to right: front row, Pat West Ensor, Francis Henderson, Jean Timmerman Swisher; second row, Mary Jane Sabellico Esworthy, Iva Darlington Siever, Pat Weber Paul, Carole Davis Turner, Nanci Jefferis Smedley, Duer Smedley; third row, Frances Wilkerson Oxendine, Sue Serafino Myers, Charles J. Ax, Jr., Patricia Moore Hershey, Harry McMinimee, Patty Daller Beaton, Elsie Strock Kocher, Margaret Miller Messner, Jeanne Emery Veltro; fourth row, William R. Brookover, Glen Mull, Harriet "Cookie" Seibert Pannebaker, Alfonso Bucci, Ross Mowery, Ron Tipton, Henry Roth; top row, Olin Siever, Jack Swarner, Frank Marcocci, Ralph Milliron, Lewis Wilkerson.

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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

It was the Stong home on Skelp Level Road in East Caln



Several people tried to identify the house in the photo above, but no one was even close. The photo was taken by Ron Tipton in the late 1950s, when he attended DHS with several of the Stong boys.

Paid ads for businesses

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Hope For Helm Fundraiser

Matt Helm is paralyzed from the waist down, due to a recent kayaking accident. Matt was born and raised in Downingtown, and is known as an exceptional person and a tremendous athlete. He and his wife, Lindsay Helm, live in Downingtown and had a new son, Hunter Helm, in August. The family faces a difficult financial situation in the coming months due to the medical expenses incurred from the accident. To help alleviate some of their worries, everyone is invited to the first annual Hope for Helm event, to be held from 6-10 PM on Saturday, November 15 at the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford. There will be dinner and drinks, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. To purchase tickets to the event and for more info, see: www.hopeforhelm.com

Pancake Breakfast

There will be a pancake breakfast, along with a bake sale, at Romansville United Methodist Church, 859 W. Strasburg Road, from 8-11 AM Saturday, Sept. 27. Breakfasts are \$6; no charge for kids 5 and under. Mums also will be on sale; however, they must be pre-ordered via a call to Debbie at 610-486-6079.

Fire Prevention Event

The Downingtown Fire Department will be hosting a Fire Prevention Event for the entire family from 11 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 4 on the Wallace Avenue parking lot of Kerr Park.

Drug Take-Back Day

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