



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 39

October 6, 2016

## Where and What Is This?



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

# What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of October 1980:

- The Downingtown Area School District **teachers' strike**, which had begun on September 4, was settled on October 2, following contract negotiations conducted at the Chester County Courthouse. As a result, average teacher salary increased 11.5 percent the first year of the contract, and by 11 percent each, in the second and third years of the contract. The agreement also called for better vision care and prescription drug benefits.
- The fate of long-debated showing of **x-rated films** at the Cinema Arts Theatre in the Marchwood Shopping Center in Uwchlan Township rested in the hands of Chester County Judge D.T. Marrone. A coalition of Uwchlan residents opposed the screening of allegedly pornographic movies, and Bernard Hankin, developer and owner of the shopping center, filed suit in the Court of Common Pleas to stop the showing of the films. Hankin claimed that the lease to the theatre was sublet to Center Arts without his permission.
- The **Glen Moore Fire Co.** was considering the possibility of establishing a first aid squad. The discussion included a plan to buy a squad vehicle, similar to the one used by the East Brandywine Fire Co., but the squad would not provide ambulance transportation to a hospital. And Chuck Keesey, chief of the Glen Moore Fire Co., said only those who had successfully completed advanced first aid training courses would be allowed to give aid to victims until an ambulance crew from the Elverson Fire Co. or the Minquas Fire Co. arrived.
- **Cyclop** Gesseelschaft, German steel and plastic strapping manufacturer, purchased the FMC Corp. facility on Boot Road in East Caln. Following significant expansion and improvements, the facility is currently occupied by the **Chester County Intermediate Unit**.
- Members of **Cub Pack 23** who earned Webelos badges included Brian Gomez, Paul Butala, Jeff Young, Jeff Zeiders, Larry Bronson, Richard Wagner and Steve Lewis. And Eddie Schroeder received his Bear badge.
- DHS seniors, who were among the 16 high school students competing in the Chester County **Junior Miss Pageant**, included Jennifer Abrams, Maribeth Ficca, Beth Giffen and Suzanne Grant. Giffen, who played "Maple Leaf Rag" on the piano in the talent competition, was first runner-up.
- Officers of the Junior Methodist Youth Fellowship at **Hopewell United Methodist Church** included Mindy Kring, president; Wes Schroder, vice president; Nancy Landon, secretary; and Kim Matter, treasurer. And officers of the senior MYF group were Jimmy Small, president; Dave Cauley, vice president; Jacky Small, secretary; and Laura Wright, treasurer. Also, officers of the Twos couples group were Joe and Paula Wilson, presidents; Norm and Cindy Long, vice presidents; Dennis and Ruby Rettew, secretaries; Jim and Judy Schreiber, treasurers.
- The **DHS football team**—coached by head coach Ed Novak and assistants Ray DiSerafino, Jack Harrington and Ed Faulkner during the Downingtown School District teachers' strike—lost to West Chester East 14-6. Acting head coach Helen Finnegan's **DHS field hockey** squad stayed undefeated, as the Whippettes beat O.J. Roberts and Spring-Ford. Goalie Edie Robinson continued to be unscored upon. The **DHS girls' tennis team** was "doing a tremendous job under a difficult situation," claimed Walter Kottmeyer, acting coach, as the Whippettes beat O.J. Roberts 6-1. And Ed Spang, subbing for Coach Paul Hurley during the teachers' strike, said

the **DHS boys' soccer team** was “doing a real good job,” as the Blue and Gold defeated Great Valley 3-1 and tied Coatesville 3-3.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 322 Pennwyllt Court, Uwchlan, \$52,500; 7 Highview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$74,900; 247 Prospect Avenue, Downingtown, \$46,700; 119 Glendale Road, Uwchlan, \$67,500; 28 Cambridge Court, East Brandywine, \$53,900; 1224 Caln Meetinghouse Road, Caln, \$62,500; 508 St. Annie's Lane, Exton, \$135,774; 1233 W. Strasburg Road, West Bradford, \$59,900; 122 North Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$125,000.

## Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS Class of 1966, who attended their recent 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, were, left right: front row, Len Collier, Ray Young, Joe Kirkner, Barbara Baum Roberts, Mary Bertram Tracey, Janet Rissell, Claudia Johnson Willard and Jane Jarvie Hall; middle row, Phylis Edwards Harp, Alan Wills, Martha Alexander Walker, Alvin Groff, Sandy Forbes, Doug Mentzer, Carolyn Patrizio Rapoza, Barbara Hultz Lane, Cindy Plank Pierce, Carol Baker Hitchens and John Landis; back row, Eileen Benjamin Biddle, Bob Biddle, Bill Inslee, Norman Matthews, David Brooke Harp, Miriam Alexander Miller, Rick Partlow, Lorraine Baird Freehoff, Wenda Swarner Cain, Ed Benjamin, JoAnne Katherman, Dan Phipps and Bill Kline. Classmates in the back row of the photo, but their faces are hidden: Bill Hall and Cheryl Baker Meacham. Nancy McKee Conley attended the reunion, but she missed the photo. Will Marion, Class of 1967, was a “crasher;” he attends all Class of 1966 reunions.

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



# What was happening here in January 1930

Noted below are news items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* 86 years ago:

- Maurice Stiefel, owner of the **Roosevelt Theatre** on Brandywine Avenue in the borough, announced that Western Electric sound equipment had been installed in the movie house, enabling Downingtown area residents to hear film dialogue and music for the first time. The first “talkie” shown at the Roosevelt was “Hot for Paris,” starring Victor McLaglen. That movie was banned by censors in Kansas until 800 feet of film, which included racy scenes and dialogue, were cut.
- The **Downingtown School Board** was considering several ways of coping with the increasing enrollment in the high school. Options discussed included building a new high school on the Manor Avenue site of the Downingtown Woman’s Club or on a 10-acre site on Uwchlan Avenue, in an effort to locate the high school in an area that was beyond transportation and manufacturing “disturbances.”
- A 15-ton flywheel inexplicably broke loose in the engine room of the **Bicking Paper Co.**, and hurtled through the roof of the plant. Although large chunks of the wheel broke several windows in nearby buildings and crushed an exterior wall of the Swan Hotel, no one was injured.
- Members of **Downingtown’s Borough Council** were George Foreman, Frank Diffenderfer and James McGowan. Other borough officers included Chester Glisson, police chief, and Joseph Newlin, patrolman. Glisson’s annual salary was \$2,100 and Newlin’s was \$1,800. Willard McKinney was appointed chief of the Downingtown Fire Department.
- Officers of the **Alert Fire Co.** were Herbert Ash, president; Lewis Moses, vice president; Elmer Schrumpf, secretary; Arthur Glauner, financial secretary; Leland Wilson, treasurer; and William Mittel, trustee.

## Miss a Hist-O-Gram published in September?

You can access any of the Hist-O-Grams published in September, by clicking on the coding noted below:

September 1--[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%201%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%201%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

September 8--[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

September 15--[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2015%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2015%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

September 22--[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2022%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2022%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

September 29-- [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2029%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2029%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).



## It's the Mill at Anselma in Chester Springs



Hilary Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the water-powered Mill at Anselma, which was built ca. 1747 to provide Chester Springs area residents with flour milling service. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, it supported the County's livestock and dairy economy by milling animal feed as well as flour. Oliver Collins, the last owner-miller, came to Anselma in 1919. He and his family continued to operate the grist mill and several other businesses at Anselma until 1982, when it was purchased by the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. The mill was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2005. For more info on the Mill, see: <http://anselmamill.org/about-the-mill-at-anselma/>.

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# Last chance to sign up for Friday night program

*Have you ever wondered about the History where you live?*

## **“SLICES OF DOWNINGTOWN HISTORY”**

*A ‘Free to the Public’ Multi-Part Program presented by  
The Downingtown Area Historical Society and the Downingtown Library*

**SLICE 1:**  
**Friday, October 7**  
**6:30PM**  
**“MILLTOWN”**

**SLICE 2:**  
**Thursday, Jan. 26**  
**6:30PM**  
**“Iron Horse Comes to  
Downingtown”**

Location:  
Downingtown Library  
122 Wallace Avenue  
Downingtown, PA 19335

Register your spot for  
either or both sessions  
today!

Call the Library  
@ **610 269 2741**, or,  
Register Online:  
[www.downingtownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org)

- Why was it called “Milltown”?
- Who started Downingtown?
- Who was here first and why?
- How does a Mill work?
- Does the area where I live have history?
- What is a “Mill Race”?

- How did people move around in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century?
- Who built the roads and railroads?
- What is the Pennsylvania Railroad?
- What did the road and railroad system look like?
- How did the road and railroad system attribute to the growth of Downingtown?

**Come “Grab a Slice” of History!**

## - Christmas Specials -

<b>Beginning Tuesday</b> <b>December 10</b>	<b>Merry Xmas</b> <i>and a</i> <b>Happy New</b> <b>Year</b>	<b>Ending Tuesday</b> <b>December 24</b>
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Sponged and Pressed      Special price      Regular price		French Dry Cleaned and Pressed      Special price      Regular price
Men's Suits      -      50c      50c		Men's Suits      -      \$1.00      \$1.35
Men's Overcoats      -      50c      50c		Men's Overcoats      -      1.00      1.35
Ladies' Suits <small>woolen plain skirts</small> 50c      75c		Ladies' Suits <small>plain skirts woolen</small> 1.00      1.50
Ladies' Overcoats      -      50c      75c		Ladies' Overcoats      -      1.00      1.50
Ladies' Dresses <small>velvet or woolen</small> 50c      75c		Ladies' Overcoats <small>fur collar and cuffs</small> 1.25      1.75
<b>Ladies' Dresses Dyed, Pressed and Repleated at Special Prices You Will Be Glad To Pay</b>		Ladies' Skirts <small>fancy pleated</small> 1.25      1.50
		Ladies' Skirts <small>plain pleated</small> 1.00      1.25
		Ladies' Dress, woolen      -      1.00      1.25
		Ladies' Dresses <small>silk plain</small> 1.50      1.75
		Ladies' Dresses <small>silk fancy</small> 1.75      2.00
		Ladies' Hats-      -      .40      .50
		Gloves      -      .25      .35

**\$29.<sup>50</sup> up**

**SUIT OR OVERCOAT**  
Correct Custom Made To Measure At Moderate Cost

**\$29.<sup>50</sup> up**

***Have Competent Tailor Do All Your Work--It Pays***

# MODERN TAILOR

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Phone 654
We Call For and Deliver



## **Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week**

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your 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](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Book Sale at Library***

Downingtownt Library is seeking donations of gently used adult and children's books for its huge, semi-annual book sale. NO textbooks or encyclopedias, please. Donations will be accepted thru Thursday, Oct. 13. The book sale will be held from 5 to 7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 14 and from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, October 15. Great selection of history, biography, adult and children's fiction, movies, music and more. For more info, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

### ***War of 1812***

Author and historian Gene Pisasale will present a program on "The War of 1812 - The Conflict Which Forged a New Nation" at 3:30 PM on Sunday, October 16 at the township building in Guthriesville on Route 322. Pisasale's presentation about the "forgotten war" also will include info on how the "The Star Spangled Banner" became our national anthem. For more info, contact [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com) or call 484 237-8071.

### ***Drug Take Back Event***

The Downingtown Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 12<sup>th</sup> opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 22. The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Del-Val Olds Show***

The Delaware Valley Oldsmobile Club will have its 14<sup>th</sup> annual show at Kerr Park at 9 AM on Sunday, October 9. For more info, see: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/delvaloldclub/DVOCfallshow2016.pdf>.

### ***Fall Craft Festival & Chili Cook-off***

There will be a Fall Craft Festival and Chili Cook-off, plus hand-crafted items galore and treasures from Granny's Attic, at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza drive, Downingtown, from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 22.

### ***Operation Military Christmas Care***

Hibernia United Methodist Church will be sending much-needed care packages to servicemen and women overseas this holiday season. Operation Military Christmas Care Package runs from September 20 through October 17. Drop-off locations include the East Brandywine Township Building and Village Hardware. Downingtown drop-off locations are: Downingtown Borough Hall, Dad n Jac's This & That, and Dane Décor. For more details and a view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

[www.downingtownt.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf](http://www.downingtownt.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf)<http://www.downingtownt.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf>, or call Jane Bracken at 610-733-1212.

### ***Fine Arts & Craft Show***

There will be a juried show featuring original work in ceramics, glass, wood, paper, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and more at the Lincoln and Washington buildings at Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, from 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday, November 11, Saturday, November 12 & Sunday, November 13. Admission: \$5' free to members.

### ***Open Houses at Fire Companies***

The **Downingtown Fire Department** will have open houses from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday, October 12 at the **Alert Fire Co.** and the **Minquas Fire Co.**

The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** will have it its open house from 6:30 to 8:30 PM 9 PM on Wednesday, October 19.

The **Glen Moore Fire Co.** will have it its open house from 6 to 9 PM on Wednesday October 12.

The **Lionville Fire Co.** will have it its open house at 6 PM on Thursday, October 13.

### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, October 15. The menu will also include mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or via [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### ***Jim Croce***

Carol Sinex Schmidt, a member of the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will speak about the life and times of singer/songwriter Jim Croce, who lived in Chester County, at 7 PM Tuesday, October 18 when the West Caln Historical Society meets at the township building 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***Senior Expo & Octoberfest***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have a Senior Expo, sponsored by State Rep. Harry Lewis, from 10 AM until 2 PM on Tuesday, October 11. It will include county, and state agencies, as well as local businesses and non-profits, which provide services to seniors. And from 6:30 to 11 PM. on Saturday, October 22, the Senior Center will have an Octoberfest, which will feature dinner and dancing. To purchase tickets (\$35 per person), call the Senior Center, 610-269-3939.

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

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### What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of October 1980:

- The **Downingtown School District** approved the purchase of the Chemical Leaman Tank Lines' office building on Wallace Avenue in the borough for \$250,000. The building was to be used by the district's administrative staff, which had been housed for about 20 years in an annex of the high school on Manor Avenue. (*Editor's note: The Downingtown Library now occupies the building*).



- The Minquas and Uwchlan Ambulance Corps and the East Brandywine Fire Co. rescue squads each received \$2,000 from the proceeds of the second annual **Good Neighbor Day** road race on the Fourth of the July in Downingtown. More than 650 runners entered the 1980 race; there were 425 entrants in 1979.

- The **Exton-Lionville YMCA's** bid of \$87,000 resulted in its right to buy an 8.7-acre tract at Devon Drive and Whitord Road, which was owned by Uwchlan Township. The township bought the property in 1973 for \$65,000 as the possible site for a municipal building.

- DHS students who were semi-finalists in the **Merit Scholarship competition** were Allison Rabeneau, David Stockoff and Alison Hubler. Commended students in the competition included Sean Brown, Kimberly McCue, Brian Stockoff, Catherine Ross and Keith Huls.

- Michael Miller of the Minquas Fire Co and Brian Rambo of the Alert Fire Co. were named the Downingtown Fire Department's **Firefighters of the Year**.

- **Wilson's Marsh Creek Inn** on Route 282 in Glen Moore was offering a "complete lobster or prime rib dinner" on weekends for just \$9.95. And the **Black Angus Inn** was selling a filet mignon and king crab legs dinner for \$11.95

- The **West Bradford Home and School Association's officers** were Pam Foy, president; Mary Crouse, first vice president; Cathy Oles, second vice president; Joyce Fernald, secretary; and Kathy Murphy, treasurer. And officers of the **Downingtown Elementary Home and School Association** were Betty Busby, president; Jackie Bruton, first vice president; Cathy Bronson, second vice president; Carol Heacock, recording secretary; and Martha Broomall, corresponding secretary.

- Honored at the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League** banquet were Tom Dooley, who received the Phil Burns Memorial trophy; Brad Halderman, the American League's MVP, and Joe DeMarco, National League MVP.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 406 Santillo Way, Uwchlan, \$82,350; 1642 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$67,865; 348 Washington Ave., Downingtown, \$82,500; 225 Karen Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$53,900; 486 Fairview Road Wallace, \$66,650; 159 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$42,000; 103 Clearview Drive, East Brandywine, \$64,000.

- Down 14-0 at the half, the **DHS football team** scored twice against Spring-Ford after the intermission but the local gridders succumbed to the Rams, 21-12. Whippet TDs were scored on a 34-yard run by Teddy Robinson and an Eric Brammer pass to Bruce Tiller.

- The **DHS tennis team** finished its season with three wins—against Spring-Ford, Pottstown and Great Valley—to finish in fourth place in the Ches-Mont League with an 8-3 record. Coach Becky Desmond was especially pleased with leadership displayed by co-captains Melinda Horne, Kathy Gillooly and Vera Kockler.

- The **DHS soccer squad** qualified for the District I playoffs with a 9-3-2 record, the team's best mark since the soccer program was established. Coach Paul Hurley cited the play of Vince Forgione, Dale Russel, Dave DiEugenio, Kirt Kessler, Mike Pastino and Gary Johnson for much of the Whippets' success. After upsetting Lansdowne-Aldan 5-2, the local booters lost in the District I quarter final to Radnor, 2-0.

- Coach Sally Anderson's **DHS field hockey team** finished in fourth place in Ches-Mont action, with a 7-4 record. The Whippettes pulled a major upset when they defeated league-leading Boyertown by a 4-3 margin. Outstanding efforts by Edie Robinson, Fern Faller, Danine DiBernardi, Kelli Swartout, Julie Sten, Kim Kinney, Sherri Clayton, Sue Pease, Amy Horne, Natalie Koh, Sherri Sarmento and Jill Carbutt were cited by Anderson.

## It's a fountain in Downingtown's Kerr Park



Chad McNeill is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the fountain in the photo above, which was taken by Robin Ashby. The now inoperative fountain was part of the concrete wall in Kerr Park, which includes a stairway into the park from the Lancaster Avenue bridge.

Here's a brief history of the park, including some information on the fountain, which was in the November 19, 2010 Hist-O-Gram: "Downingtown's Dr. Edward Kerr Memorial Park is one of the community's jewels. But few people realize the park's early development was one of the many private enterprises undertaken by the Downingtown Business Men's Club, forerunner of the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1927, a year after club members had underwritten the construction of Borough Hall, they decided that an overgrown, 45-acre area along Pennsylvania Avenue should be developed as a public park.

"Community leaders appointed in 1928 to a park commission to oversee the project were: Guyon Miller, chairman; Walter B. McIlvain, vice chairman; Ernest Smedley, treasurer; John Noll, secretary. Other members included: Mrs. E.B. Fisher, Frank Parke, Frank McGraw, Perry Tyson and Park Plank.

"The park was comprised of several tracts. Harbison-Walker donated 19 acres. Thomas Downing gave 11 acres. Eight acres were purchased from Mrs. Ella Roberts. Also, 5 acres were donated by the Downingtown Paper Co., and the Downingtown Iron Works contributed 2 acres.

“One of the first projects was construction of tennis courts in 1929. Fish ponds and cinder walks were completed in 1931. A baseball diamond was built in 1932. A summertime play program, supervised by the School District, was established. The concrete entrance off Lancaster Avenue, funded during the Great Depression era by President Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration, was built in 1934.

“Initially funded by public subscription and contributions by the school district, in the early years, none of the projects and programs were supported by the Borough until 1935, when Borough Council appropriated \$1,500 for the upkeep of the park.”

### **Group Photo of the Week**



Members of the Needlecraft Club at DHS in 1964-65 were, left to right, first row, Judy White, Shirley Campbell, Carol Miller; second row, Susan Blake, Debbie Pennell, Pauline Fillman; third row, Beverly Dittmer, Linda Turpin, Pat Massimimi; fourth row, Rosemary Reilly.

## **How to trace your home’s history**

If you’re seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).



## Vintage Ad of the Week

# Open house

W. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Inc.

in  
gloriously  
wooded

## Colebrook Farms

Gracious Center Hall Colonial of white brick with 13'6"x26' living room with fireplace, unique Butler's Kitchen, Family Room with breakfast area, on wooded acre by Whitford Country Club. In historic Chester County.

**\$29,900**

**HOMES  
from  
\$25,000**

**ON YOUR  
OWN BROKER**

**contact:**  
**W. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Inc.**

**BUILDER . . . PAOLI  
NI 4-4560**

Lancaster Pike (30) to 1st crossroads W. of Estate of Creamer Fence Co. turn R. on Whitford Rd. L. on Whitford Hills Rd. to Colebrook Farms.

**COLEBROOK  
FARMS**

**WHITFORD COUNTRY CLUB**



This ad was originally published in the May 1, 1964 issue of the *Daily Local News*.

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

## Downingtown area news 61 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the Downingtown Archive in October 1955:

- Warren Strawsnyder bought the **Cozzone Pontiac** dealership, at 148 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Anthony Cozzone had owned the dealership since 1948.
- Robert Miller and Norman Woodward were named the **Downingtown Fire Department's** Firemen of the Year.
- Connie Osborne was named the **Harvest Queen** at the DHS Farm Show. Her court included Kathy D'Attilio, Margie Eppolito, Susie McCue and Ruth Hall.
- DHS students who received awards in the Ford Motor Co. **industrial arts competition** were Robert Detterline, William Wisler, William Arters, and John Nelson.
- Beloit Iron Co. of Beloit, WI, bought the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.**, which was renamed Beloit Eastern.
- **Downingtown Paper Box Co.** announced plans to build a new plant and offices on Boot Road in East Caln.

## Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

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## We need these DHS yearbooks

The Historical Society has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have every page of every yearbook of both of the high schools in the Downingtown School District digitized, free of charge. Please help us by donating or loaning copies of the yearbooks listed below, so we can have as many digitized yearbooks in our archival collection as possible. The missing yearbooks include:

Copies of the "Cuckoo," title of the DHS yearbook until 1955, we need: 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1951.

Copies of the DHS yearbook, when it was titled "Our Year:" 1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and copies of the DHS West edition in 2012, 2014 and 2015.

Copies of every DHS East yearbook, titled "The Prowl:" 2006 through 2015.

Please bring the yearbooks you wish to donate or loan us to: Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, which is next to the Chic-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, Downingtown. We are open from 1-4 PM on Sundays. We must have the yearbooks no later than Sunday, November 6 in order to meet the digitizing service's shipping deadline.

# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, October 29. The parade forms at Beaver Creek School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave. and ends at Kerr Park. For more details, see:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/2016%20DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN.pdf>.

## ***Dash of the Living Dead***

The Downingtown Main Street's Dash of the Living Dead will begin at 2 PM on Saturday, October 29. The course begins at the Kerr Park tennis courts and continues to Aston Avenue, back to Kerr Park, and then continues on the path to Johnsontown, and then to the finish line in Log House field. For info on registration and other details, see:

[www.runtheday.com/registration/race\\_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5](http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5).

## ***Book Sale at Library***

Downingtown Library is seeking donations of gently used adult and children's books for its huge, semi-annual book sale. NO textbooks or encyclopedias, please. Donations will be accepted thru Thursday, Oct. 13. The book sale will be held from 5 to 7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 14 and from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, October 15. Great selection of history, biography, adult and children's fiction, movies, music and more. For more info, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

## ***Outgrown Sale***

The St. James Pre-School, 409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, will have an outgrown sale of children's clothing, toys, books and maternity items from 8 AM until noon on Saturday, October 15.

## ***War of 1812***

Author and historian Gene Pisasale will present a program on "The War of 1812 - The Conflict Which Forged a New Nation" at 3:30 PM on Sunday, October 16 at the township building in Guthriesville on Route 322. Pisasale's presentation about the "forgotten war" also will include info on how the "The Star Spangled Banner" became our national anthem. For more info, contact [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com) or call 484 237-8071.

## ***Octoberfest***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Octoberfest from 6:30 to 11 PM on Saturday, October 22 at the Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Tickets, \$35 per person, enable guests to enjoy dinner, drinks and dancing. For more info and to buy tickets, call 610-269-3939

## ***Spaghetti Dinner***

The Eagle-Glenmoore Lions Club will hold a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 15 in the social hall of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, at Route 100 and Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan. Call 610-635-2576 for tickets. Proceeds go to the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley and the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown.

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The Downingtown Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 12<sup>th</sup> opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 22. The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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Hibernia United Methodist Church will be sending much-needed care packages to servicemen and women overseas this holiday season. Operation Military Christmas Care Package runs from September 20 through October 17. Drop-off locations include the East Brandywine Township Building and Village Hardware. Downingtown drop-off locations are: Downingtown Borough Hall, Dad n Jac's This & That, and Dane Décor. For more details and a o view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

[www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf](http://www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf)<http://www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf>, or call Jane Bracken at 610-733-1212.

### ***Christmas Bazaar***

Crafters who wish to sell items at the Downingtown United Methodist Church's Christmas Bazaar must reserve a table space by Monday, November 7 by calling 484-678-3814. The bazaar will be held at the church, on Saturday, November 12.

### ***Fine Arts & Craft Show***

There will be a juried show, featuring original work in ceramics, glass, wood, paper, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and more, at the Lincoln and Washington buildings at Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, from 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday, November 11, Saturday, November 12 & Sunday, November 13. Admission: \$5; free to members.

### ***Open Houses at Fire Companies***

The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** will have it its open house from 6:30 to 8:30 PM 9 PM on Wednesday, October 19. The **Lionville Fire Co.** will have it its open house at 6 PM on Thursday, October 13.

### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, October 15. The menu will also include mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or via [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### ***Jim Croce***

Carol Sinex Schmidt, a member of the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will speak about the life and times of singer/songwriter Jim Croce, who lived in Chester County, at 7 PM Tuesday, October 18 when the West Caln Historical Society meets at the township building 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***CMMD Run***

The Team CMMD This Run's Personal 5K road race will be held at 9 AM on Saturday, November 5 at DHS West 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more info, see: [www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal](http://www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal).

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtowntown-farmers-market>.

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

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***Banquet room for rent***

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 41

October 20, 2016

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# What was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in early September 1964:

- Three “outdated” school houses faded into oblivion when the Pickering-Brandywine Jointure opened the new **Pickering Valley Elementary School** in the Eagle area. The one-room schools that were replaced by the new school were Windsor, Prospect and Font in Upper Uwchlan Township, plus the “more modern” West Pikeland School in Chester Springs. Total enrollment in the new school was 300 pupils. Carl Deutsch was the principal.
- Named to serve on a committee, which was responsible for the construction of the **Broad Run School** in West Bradford were township residents William Jones, Edward Stouff, Robert Hodge and Dr. Walter Fetherolf; plus Downingtown Area Jointure Board members Raymond Williams and W.I. Pollock.
- Thomas Brookover, a **Downingtown Paper Co. (DOPACO)** official said his firm took full responsibility for the mechanical failure that caused black soot to accidentally cover the borough’s east end on a Sunday morning. Fire companies, borough residents and DOPACO employees spent Sunday washing down houses, cars and streets, in an attempt to clean up the residue.
- Officers of the **East Brandywine 4-H Club** were Sandra Thomas, president; Lynne Forbes, vice president; Loretta Moore, treasurer; Daryl Moore, secretary; Christine Weller, recreation leader; Georgia Baker, pianist; Linda Laird and Lorraine Androwick, junior leaders.
- Fifteen-year-old Cindi Kent, of East Caln, won the **Whitford Country Club’s** women’s golf championship.

# We still need these DHS yearbooks

The Historical Society has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have every page of every yearbook of both of the high schools in the Downingtown School District digitized, free of charge. Please help us by donating or loaning copies of the yearbooks listed below, so we can have as many digitized yearbooks in our archival collection as possible. The missing yearbooks include:

Copies of the “Cuckoo,” title of the DHS yearbook until 1955, we need: 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1951.

Copies of the DHS yearbook, when it was titled “Our Year:” 1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1988, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and copies of the DHS West edition in 2012, 2014 and 2015.

Copies of every DHS East yearbook, titled “The Prowl:” 2006 through 2015.

Please bring the yearbooks you wish to donate or loan us to: Ashbridge House, the Historical Society’s headquarters, which is next to the Chic-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, Downingtown. We are open from 1-4 PM on Sundays. We must have the yearbooks no later than Sunday, November 6 in order to meet the digitizing service’s shipping deadline.

## It was the Brooklyn Woolen Mill in Lyndell



Shelley Francies is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century photo above as the Brooklyn Woolen Mill. The mill was established by John McClure in 1844 in Brooklyn, the name of hamlet now known as Lyndell in East Brandywine Township. Despite its name, the mill primarily produced cotton goods. After Joseph McClure--who had earned a medical degree at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia but never practiced medicine--joined the family firm, he expanded the business to include mills in nearby Milford Mills. After J. & J. Eastwood and Co. took over the business in 1890, the mill was producing between 9,000 and 14,000 yards of textiles weekly, according to Barbara Paul's "A History of East Brandywine Township." And in 1905, the Brooklyn Mill was converted into the Lyndell Paper Mill by Samuel Lemmon. The mill ceased operation in 1930. The mill site had been occupied by MacBrine's greenhouses until it closed in recent years.

## What local folks were talking about 86 years ago

Noted below are news items which were published in April 1930 issues of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- A **new high school** was the primary focus when the Downingtown School Board held a special meeting to discuss the school district's needs over the next five years. At the time, borough students in the elementary grades were split between East Ward and West Ward schools. However, West Ward School also was where students in seventh through twelfth grades were enrolled, as well. Although the stock market had crashed in October 1929, the meeting attendees had no idea that the Great Depression would last for another 10 more calamitous years. The local school directors agreed that junior high school (seventh, eighth and ninth graders)

students should be located in the planned high school building because they could share the same library, cafeteria, auditorium, gymnasium and mechanical system. And a representative of the Department of Education in Harrisburg, who attended the meeting, strongly suggested that the school district should consider the increasing number of students from outside the borough, who would be enrolling in the borough schools.

- The **Alert Fire Co.** formed a building committee, which would be responsible for the constructing a new fire house on the former Thomas Pedrick property on the north side of West Lancaster Avenue, between Downing and Stuart Avenues, in the borough. The site had been purchased for \$3,500 in 1925. Members of the committee included Elmer Schrupf, Leland Wilson, Arthur Glauner, William Barrett, Wilmer Johnson, W. I. Pollock, Josiah Phillips and William Mittel. *(Editor's Note: Building a fire station on the Pedrick site never reached fruition. Instead, the Alerts bought the Ringwalt estate on West Pennsylvania in 1940, and the fire house there was dedicated in 1941).*

- Elementary and secondary school choruses from the Downingtown District came in second in the **Chester County Singing Contest** at West Chester State College. About 80 pupils from Downingtown, under the guidance of Ruth Shumway, supervisor of music, participated in the competition. However, local folks were miffed with the judging of the Chester County Play Festival when the **DHS orchestra** didn't take first place in the competition.

- A. L. Allen, was hired to be the junior-senior high school's first director of the **physical education classes**, which were incorporated into the curriculum for the first time. Also, the School Board was seeking a site where the newly formed DHS **field hockey team** could practice and compete in matches. And DHS students were hoping that a **permanent band stand** would be built in the borough's Kerr Memorial Park so the high school band could play outdoor concerts there.

- On sale at **Gabriel's Fruit Market**, 121 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, were two dozen bananas for 25 cents. And in addition to offering pick-up and delivery service, **Parke's Dry Cleaning and Dyeing**, 1 Wallace Avenue in the borough, offered special "mourning" service.

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_DeEdAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_DeEdAbstract.pdf).

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

***"THE BEST FOR LESS"***  
***AT***  
**-- The Publix Market --**

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***SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK***  
***IN OUR SEA FOOD DEPARTMENT***

<b>Quality Steak Cod</b> <b>19c lb.</b>	<b>FRESH SHAD</b> <b>25c lb.</b>	<b>Stewing Oysters</b> <b>19c doz.</b>
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***IN OUR FRUIT & VEGETABLE DEPARTMENT***

<b>RIPE BANANAS</b> <b>15c doz.</b>	<b>Tender Carrots and Beets</b> <b>5c bunch</b>	<b>HARD HEAD SALAD</b> <b>7c, 3 for 20c</b>
<b>EATING OR COOKING APPLES</b> <b>19c 1-4 pk.</b>		<b>LARGE HEAD CELERY</b> <b>9c, 3 for 25c</b>
<b>SWEET JUICY ORANGES</b> <b>29c doz.</b>		<b>WHITE MEALY POTATOES</b> <b>65c basket</b>
<b>California Sugar Peas</b> <b>29c 1-4 pk.</b>		

**THE PUBLIX MARKET**  
**126 East Lancaster Avenue      Downingtown, Pa.**  
**PHONE 36 AND WE WILL DELIVER**

This Ad was originally published in the Downingtown Archive on April 5, 1930



## Group Photo of the Week



Pictured above are members of the Downingtown team, which won the Chester County Baseball League championship in 1946. They are shown at a banquet at Palumbo's Restaurant in Philadelphia, given by the Downingtown Lions Club. The players and Lions Club members at the dinner included, left to right: seated in the first row, "Ducky" Grimes, Bob McCaughey, "Bus" Phillips, Tony DiLuigi, Arthur Petrella, Jim Charles, Charles Sigle, Gene Burkey, Bill Kellon, Tony Mattioni, Charlie Forte and "Butch" DiBernardi; second row, seated, Ray Irons, John Johnson, Bob Ludwick, Dick Dague, "Rachel" Gazzerro, "Mutt" Hummel, Carroll Gazzerro, Dom Or and Tom Lee; back row, standing, Bill Mahood, Nick Zaferes, Chad Campbell, Ernie Rittenhouse, Sam Charles, Dr. George Bousum, Dr. Carl Dent, unknown bus driver, and Morris Steifel.

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### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

The Old Caln Historical Society will hold its annual, multi-course roast beef dinner at 5 PM on Saturday, November 5, at the Thorndale Inn. George Burns, a historical comedian files, will provide entertainment, and there may even be a "Gracie" sighting. Tickets are \$30 per person, including gratuity and the cost of entertainment. The public is invited. Call Joan 610-384-9496 or Lois 610-384-8153 for reservations. The deadline is October 30.

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Vol. 7, No. 42

October 27, 2016

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# What was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of September 1964:

- The Downingtown Joint High School Board okayed plans for an **18-room addition to the high school**, which was built on Manor Avenue in 1960. The addition would increase the building's student capacity to 1,432; DHS enrollment in September 1964 was 727 pupils. Construction costs, plus some changes to the current building were projected to be \$1.2 million. The project was to begin in December 1964, and the anticipated completion date was January 1966.

- Downingtown became the site of the Chester County Redevelopment Authority's first Urban Renewal project. And **Donald Greenleaf** was appointed as the authority's executive director, a part-time position since he would continue to be Downingtown's assistant borough manager. The initial federal Urban Renewal project was to focus on the rejuvenation of 20 properties in the borough's business district.

- Joseph Mento, chairman of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** Christmas Lighting Committee, proposed that a "massive chandelier" be erected in the borough's Center Square as an organizational project. Mento also said the \$1,000 proceeds, generated via ad sales in the Chamber's business directory, plus private contributions, could cover the cost of the chandelier project. And Raymond Baugher, superintendent of schools, suggested that the \$1,000 worth of needed repairs to the Log House, where the Chamber had its office, might be accomplished by a group from DHS.

- **Downingtown School District teachers** who did graduate work at West Chester State College during the summer months included Edith Hille, Emily Lewis, Mary Costello, Glenda Bricker, Anne Siracuse, Elma Miller, Patricia Wentz, Barbara Miller, Emma Tweed, Eileen McCardell, Julia Pollock, Walter Millard, Michael Lipschultz, Charles Forte and John Rule.

- Officers of the Live Wire Class at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Mrs. George Wagner, president; Elisabeth Carpenter, vice president; Mrs. Raymond Brookover, secretary; and Mrs. William Woodward, treasurer.

- Bibles were presented to Brenda Whitney, Barbara Martin, Robert Hodge, Larry Bickings, Libby Ekdahl, Jeffrey Sharp, Bonnie Hoxter and Michael Geddes when they were promoted to the Junior Department (seventh grade) of the Sunday School at **Marshallton Methodist Church**.

- Youngsters from Glenmoore who entered kindergarten at **Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School** included Dane Scott Colestock, Cynthia Lyn Comstock, John Wesley Gabriel, Patricia Ann Irely, Cynthia Gail Lewis, David Brian Lownes, Frank M. Styer and Judith Ann Wolfe. Their teacher was Elizabeth Wells. And officers of the school's PTA group were: Jay Lammey, president; Harry Martini, vice president; Mrs. Edward Ker, secretary; and Harry Yost, treasurer.

- Promoted to the Sunday School's third grade at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Kimberly Fleck, Robin Nethery, Billy Hawk, Butch Hurst, Russel Miller, Glen Taylor, Peter Forsberg, Lisa Pfeiffer, Gary Maga, Darrell Regal and Cathy Shaw. Mrs. Alfred Kochel was their teacher.

- The **DHS football team** nipped Spring-Ford 13-7 in its season opener, as Tom Price scored two TDs on passes tossed by sophomore quarterback Bill Kline.

## It was the demolition of the Pennsylvania House



Gregg Nelms was is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the Pennsylvania House, on the south side of West Lancaster Avenue, in front of the railroad station in Downingtown. Henry Eicholtz took over the tavern he operated there in the 1840s, and expanded it into a railroad hotel, where train passengers could stay. The former hotel was turned into an apartment house in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as the location of several commercial establishments on the street level. The demolition was done in the early 1980s by the borough, after the building had been the scene of several fires, and a municipal parking lot was installed there. *Editor's note: Did you notice the black box attached to the utility pole in the photo above? That was one of the seven Gamewell System fire alarm boxes used by the Downingtown Fire Department until 1985. We'll have lots of info on the alarm system in next week's Hist-O-Gram.*

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# What local folks were talking about in May 1930

Noted below are news items originally published in the Downingtown Archive 86 years ago:

- Three young men burned to death when an airplane they were flying in **crashed to earth** at the Lewis Downing farm on Bell Tavern Road in East Caln. The plane was owned and piloted by one of the victims, Carmen Van Leer of Glen Loch. The other victims were Norman Donnelly of West Chester, and Robert Stanford of Glen Loch. Downingtown firemen and the Minquas ambulance responded to the crash site, to no avail.
- Based on the 1930 federal census, the population of the borough of Downingtown had grown from 4,024 in 1920 to 4,544 a decade later.
- The Downingtown Park Commission decided to pay W.I. Pollock \$1 per square yard for the removal of an island in the middle of Brandywine Creek. The island had contributed to flooding in **Kerr Park**. Tennis courts had been installed in the park recently, and the commission planned to build a baseball diamond and field hockey field there.
- Downingtown **Police Chief** Chester Glisson said he wouldn't tolerate borough residents parking their cars in the street overnight, in order to avoid paying rent for a garage space.
- The American Legion's plans for **Memorial Day** included the firing squad and trumpeters participating in an 8:30 AM gravesite service at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Then the Legionnaires met the Coatesville Drum and Bugle Corps at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the Johnstown section of the borough, and they all marched to the Eachus Feed Mill at the intersection of Viaduct and West Lancaster Avenues, where a parade formed. In addition to members of the American Legion and the drum and bugle corps, the parade, included the veterans of the Civil War (GAR Post), the Spanish-American War, World War I, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, local school children, and the DHS band. The band route was limited to several streets in the west end of town, before the line of march ended at the Lancaster Avenue bridge, where there was an exercise to honor servicemen who were lost at sea. The final stop was a gravesite service at Northwood Cemetery.
- A **May Day Festival** was conducted on the grounds of East Ward School in the borough. The program began with the high school band and a large number of DHS students parading down Lancaster Avenue to the elementary school. Sara Diffenderfer was crowned May Queen. Each class performed May pole dances, songs and pantomimes.
- Mrs. Walter McIlvain gifted new Linotile flooring for the chancel and sanctuary of **St. James Episcopal Church** in Downingtown. The color scheme was cream and black, to match the church's walls and pews.
- The Gulf Refining Co. had opened a **gas station** at the corner of East Lancaster Avenue and Green Street in Downingtown.
- Downingtown women who **earned bachelor's degrees** from West Chester State Teachers College were Anna Murray, Martha Brown, Kathryn Brown, Emily Lewis and Martha Larkin.
- **Dick Thomas** had begun selling "real barbecue" at his shop on Lincoln Highway in the Whitford area.

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

## Our Restaurant Raffle is bigger & better than ever

The Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle is bigger and better than ever. That's because each raffle ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners this year. By splitting the nine great, local restaurants participating in the raffle into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

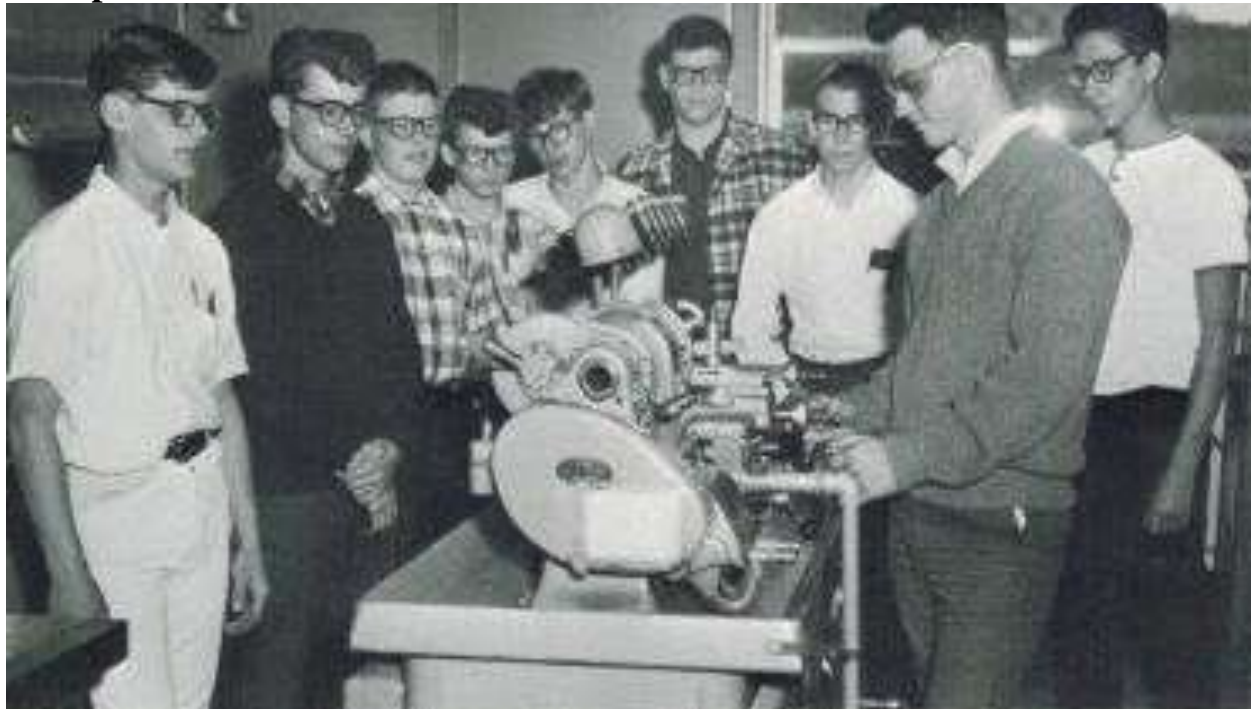
Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Downingtown area restaurants participating in the raffle include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, St. Anthony's, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House, and the Thorndale Inn.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Art Metal Club at DHS in the 1965-66 school year included, left to right: Brad Gregory, Dennis Forrester, James Harrington, James Slonaker, Donald DeGezzelle, Douglas Habecker, Robert Woodward, James Reber and Charles Williams.



Vintage Ad of the Week

**Gabriel's**  
**FRUIT MARKET**  
121 W' Lancaster Ave.

**SPECIALS FOR SATURDAY ONLY**

Large Ripe  
**BANANAS**  
2 doz. for 25c

**SPINACH**  
9c 1-4 pk.

Large Hand Heads of  
**ICEBERG LETTUCE** - 7c

**NEW BEETS**  
4 lb. for 15c

**NEW CABBAGE**  
3 lb. for 25c

**FREE DELIVERY**

This ad was originally published in the April 25, 1930 edition of the Daily Local News.

# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***History of Dowlin Forge***

Chester County author and storyteller Susannah Brody will talk about the long-term business connections between three generations of the Dowlin family and Rebecca Lukens and her descendants. The program will be at 6 PM on Thursday, November 3 at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Avenue, Coatesville. Cost is \$5; members free. Light refreshments will be served.

## ***Lecture series***

Sandra Momyer will talk about Historic Yellow and the Battle of the Clouds at the monthly lecture on Thursday, November 3, sponsored by the Mill at Anselma, which will be held at Bell Hall, Montgomery School on Route 113. \$5 per person; Anselma Mill members free. Wine and cheese reception at 6:30 PM; lecture starts at 7 PM.

## ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, October 29. The parade forms at Beaver Creek School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave. and ends at Kerr Park. For more details, see:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/2016%20DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN.pdf>.

## ***Dash of the Living Dead***

The Downingtown Main Street's Dash of the Living Dead will begin at 2 PM on Saturday, October 29. The course begins at the Kerr Park tennis courts and continues to Aston Avenue, back to Kerr Park, and then continues on the path to Johnsontown, and then to the finish line in Log House field. For info on registration and other details, see:

[www.runtheday.com/registration/race\\_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5](http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5).

## ***Flag Raising Ceremony***

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will host a Veterans Day flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial area in Kerr Park, Downingtown, at 10 AM on Friday, November 11.

## ***Roast Beef Dinner***

The Old Caln Historical Society will hold its annual, multi-course roast beef dinner at 5 PM on Saturday, November 5, at the Thorndale Inn. George Burns, a historical comedian files, will provide entertainment, and there may even be a "Gracie" sighting. Tickets are \$30 per person, including gratuity and the cost of entertainment. The public is invited. Call Joan 610-384-9496 or Lois 610-384-8153 for reservations. The deadline is October 30.

## ***Christmas Bazaar***

Crafters who wish to sell items at the Downingtown United Methodist Church's Christmas Bazaar must reserve a table space by Monday, November 7 by calling 484-678-3814. The bazaar will be held at the church, on Saturday, November 12.

## ***Fine Arts & Craft Show***

There will be a juried show, featuring original work in ceramics, glass, wood, paper, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and more, at the Lincoln and Washington buildings at Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, from 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday, November 11, Saturday, November 12 & Sunday, November 13. Admission: \$5; free to members.

## ***CMMD Run***

The Team CMMD This Run's Personal 5K road race will be held at 9 AM on Saturday, November 5 at DHS West 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more info, see:

[www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal](http://www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal).

## ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtowntown-farmers-market>.

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

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

***Banquet room for rent***

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 43

November 3, 2016

## Where Is This?



We suspect many people will recognize the stately building in the top portion of the photo above. However, we're trying to determine what is currently located on the site of the baseball field today. The first person to correctly provide that information will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Here's how **YOU** can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).



# What was happening here 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of March 1948:

- The **Marshallton School PTA** sponsored a meeting with a large number of West Bradford residents to discuss the reorganization of the township's school system. Much attention was focused on which high school—Downingtown, Coatesville or West Chester—township youngsters should attend. The township school board was requested to hire a University of Pennsylvania Education group to study the issue.

- Downingtown's **Health Board** initiated an investigation of who was responsible for the accumulation of garbage and refuse in the mill race, which travelled under stores on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough's business district, and ultimately collected at the Bicking Paper Co., located at the rear of the Downingtown National Bank's main office.

- **Girl Scout Troop 10** celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a party at Marshallton School. Members of the troop who participated in games such as "Clumps," "Cootie," and "George Washington Crossing the Delaware" at the party included Verna and Jo-Ann Woodward, Bunny Bunting, Patty Bittle, Caroline Ferri, June Ellingsworth, Didi Wilson, Edith Albertson, Mary Brackbill, Jennie Thompson, Carlene Yetter, Shirley Lamborn, Mary-Jane Place, Jo-Ann LeFevre, Doris Cann, Lee Ashby and Edith Smyers.

- The Ladies Working Guild at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, baked 140 pies of many varieties in the church kitchen early one morning and quickly sold them all. The committee responsible for the project included Mrs. Earl Garrison, Mrs. Frank McCorkle and Mrs. George Holcombe.

- Members of the cast in the **DHS senior play**, "Don't Take My Penny," included Marie Cozzone, Ruth Schrupf, Phil Burns, Duane Chesney, Charles Pollock, Marjorie Lyons, Virginia and Thomas Bare, Frances DiPietro, Richard Warren, Rena Eachus, Frank Pomento, Betty Moore, Jane Wallace, Dorothy Perley, Frank Wagoner and A.C. Hammons. Special music was performed between acts by vocalist Elsie Manetta and trumpeter Peter Edgar.

- Sixth graders at **West Ward School** in Downingtown, who performed in an operetta, were Dick Goudie, Chaddie Campbell, Dottie Kipp, June Oliver, Helen Jane Henry, Elmer Esworthy, Raymond Thompson, Billie Osborne, Esther Flowers, Teresa Ciarlone, Richard Valentino, Fay Bousum, Shirley Cumens, Bob Plank, and Nancy Yohn.

- DHS seniors who received \$25 awards from the **DHS Alumni Association** were Beverly Chandler and Duane Chesney. The awards were presented at the organization's annual banquet, which was attended by 425 alums. The association voted to have a bronze plaque that memorialized the DHS boys, who were killed in World War II, installed in the junior-senior high school on Manor Avenue.

- Students at **Indiantown School** in Glen Moore who served on the safety patrol, were Joaquin Matlack, Amos Ammon, Howard Arters, Shirley Hannum and Arthur Miller. They were supervised by teacher Mary Eppiheimer.

- Soloists who performed at the DHS spring concert included Janet Kriebel, Frank DiSilvestro, Annabelle Warnick and William Cole.

- Members of **Downingtown Methodist Church**, whose altar and pulpit furniture donations, were given in memory of loved ones who were killed in World War II, were dedicated at a special service, included: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pickell, a pulpit; Bertha Thayssen, a pulpit Bible; Mr. and Mrs. William Kline, a communion table; and Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Brownback, an altar cross and candlestick holders,

## It was Brothers of the Brush contest during borough's Centennial



Tom Lee Jr. is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above as the finalists shaving, following the judging of the Brothers of the Brush competition during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Downingtown's incorporation in 1859. Looking on were the Centennial Queen and several members of her court.

## What local folks were talking about in May 1930

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* 86 years ago:

- The **Roosevelt Theatre** on Brandywine Avenue, Downingtown, had begun giving Personal Beauty Ware pieces to women who attended a movie on a Wednesday or Thursday night. The free pieces included a dressing comb, brush, mirror and "all the necessary manicuring and toilette articles for the lady's boudoir."
- **Samuel Banghart**, an 85-year-old Civil War veteran participated in the Downingtown's Memorial Day parade, as the last surviving member of the local GAR Post, which he had founded. He enlisted in the Union Army as a drummer boy when he was 16, and subsequently served as an infantryman until 1865.
- Many local residents only had to pay \$3.50 to take advantage all summer of the recreational activities offered by the **YMCA Camp**, located just south of the borough border. The camp included six two-story cottages and six bungalows, both of which had electric lights; the weekly rate for lodging was \$7, excluding meals. There also was a cement, outdoor swimming pool and a bathhouse, four tennis courts, and a recreation hall. Also, Camp Dwight, for boys between 11 and 16, and Camp Castle, for young kids, were Additional facilities opened for the first time.

- In addition to shoe repairs, **Joseph Mfauewd** offered cleaning and blocking of hats at his shop at 114 E. Lancaster Avenue.
- An altar frontal, designed by parishioner Gilbert McIlvaine and executed by a firm in London, was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Noll in memory of their daughter, Ruth, to **St. James Episcopal Church** in Downingtown. And proceeds from several performances of an operetta, starring St. James members, were used to pay for painting of the parish house's interior.
- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** established a foundation to help worthy DHS grads pay for their college education.
- Members of **St. Anthony's Lodge** and their families in Downingtown celebrated St. Anthony's Day by having an Italian band from South Philadelphia play several concerts over the weekend in the Johnsontown section of the borough, and enjoyed a fireworks display on Saturday night.
- The grand prize at the **Minquas Fire Co.** carnival was \$100 in gold.
- Mrs. A. Lee Miller opened the **Brandywine Tea Room** at 103 Brandywine Ave. in the borough. Another new eating establishments was J. F. McNerney's **White House Inn**, on Route 30 in the Whitford area.

### Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Woodshop Club at DHS during the 1964-65 school year were, left to right: first row, Sharon Hopkins, Betty Winters and Sandra Weiler; second row, George Dunn, Joseph Kirkner, William Coffman, Jerome Williams and James Hemcher.

## **St. Anthony's is participating in our Restaurant Raffle**

St. Anthony's Restaurant one of the nine popular, Downingtown area eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House, and the Thorndale Inn.

St. Anthony's Restaurant, located at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 W. Church St, in the Johnsontown section of the borough, offers a little taste of Italy in your back yard. The restaurant has been operated since 2012 by Rose Mascherino Ciarlone, who's carrying on a family tradition since her father was a waiter there many years ago. The Lodge, which has over 2,000 members, will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1919. And its leaders include fourth generation persons who are taking over the club's management.

In addition to the many traditional Italian favorites such as homemade pasta, meatballs, gnocchis, crepe lasagna, soups and sauces on the dinner menu, customers rave about unusual items, such as: the vegetable risotto, calamari, and pumpkin raviolis.

The restaurant, which is open to the public from 5-9 PM on Tuesday through Saturday and from 3-8 PM on Sunday. Reservations can be made by calling 610-269-9039.

Besides hosting private parties and group dinners in the Lodge's second floor banquet hall, which has a capacity of 150 people, the restaurant recently started offering line dancing (only \$10 at the door) every Wednesday night, 7-8 PM for lessons and 8-10 PM for dancing.

For more info on St. Anthony's Restaurant, see: [www.facebook.com/StAnthonysRestaurant/](http://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysRestaurant/).

Our raffle is better and bigger this year because each raffle ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. By splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

## **Here's how to trace your home's history**

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## Pat Butler explains how Fire Department's alarm system worked

When Pat Butler, longtime firefighter for the Alerts, saw the photo of the Pennsylvania House demolition in the October 20 Hist-O-Gram, he immediately noticed the Gamewell fire alarm box attached to a utility pole in the picture. The Downingtown Fire Department used the Gamewell system from the late 1920s until 1985.

In addition to the one in front of the Pennsylvania House, the alarm boxes also were located in the 1960s and 1970s at Center Square (intersection of Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues), old St Joseph's Catholic School and Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue, the junior high school (now the STEM Academy) and the senior high school on Manor Avenue, and East Ward School on East Lancaster Avenue.

Pat explained how that alarm system worked in an email to the Historical Society:

*If someone activated the alarm, a loud bell would sound at each fire station in town, in addition to the horns at Borough Hall.*

*Pat now owns the box that had been in front of the old St Joseph's Catholic School. That was Box 312. So when someone pulled that alarm, it was activated and the bells at both fire houses in town would sequentially ring 3 times, 1 time and 2 times. The same sequence would be heard throughout town from the horns at Borough Hall.*



*The photo on the left shows what the system, installed at each fire house, looked like; several cog wheels in that box activated the horns and bells at each firehouse.*

*And if there was a general alarm, someone would activate one of the Gamewell systems at either fire house with a 7, which would blow the horns in 7 bursts (and would repeat 2 more times.) If the alarm signaled a call to the Alert Fire Co., the signal would be a 13 sequence (one burst followed by three bursts), while a signal to the Minquas Fire Co. would be a 12 (one burst, followed by two bursts).*

*Also an alarm for an air raid would be continuously blasting of the horns at Borough Hall.*

## Miss a Hist-O-Gram published in October?

You can access any of the Hist-O-Grams published in October, by clicking on the coding below.

October 6— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%206%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%206%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 13— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2013%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2013%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 20— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2020%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2020%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 27— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2027%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2027%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

Our headquarters is pictured on Yellowbook cover



To stop delivery of this directory visit  
[www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com).

# Downingtown • Exton

*Including Business White Page Listings  
for all of Chester County*

**2016-2017**  
Atglen, Brandamore, Coatesville, Eagle, Glenmoore, Honey Brook,  
Lionville, Lyndell, Parkesburg, Sadsburyville, Thorndale, Wagontown  
FIND RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS AT [YELLOWBOOK.COM](http://YELLOWBOOK.COM)

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service fees apply. Eligibility based on service address. Ask how!  
Call **1-877-771-8807**  
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Eco-friendly size  
Packed with valuable  
local business information  
For nationwide local search and business solutions, visit [yellowbook.com](http://yellowbook.com)

The rear of Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters, is pictured on the front cover of the new edition of the Exton-Downingtown Yellowbook telephone directory.

Vintage Ad of the Week

*For Health and Fun Skate*  
*At ...*

# **SKATELAND**

## **ROLLER RINK**

Route 30                      Exton, Pa.  
Every Eve. 8 P.M. to 11 P.M.  
Excluding Monday Eves.  
Saturday & Sunday Matinees  
2 P.M.-4:30 P.M.



★ **New Management**  
★ **New Music**  
★ **New Plastic Floor**

**SPECIAL!**  
**SAT. EVENING**  
**AUG. 29**  
**OLD TIMERS**  
**NIGHT**  
**FREE**      **COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS**

M. MEKOSH, Operator                      W. RYAN, Manager

This ad was originally published in the August 28, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.



# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Historical Markers***

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Bruce Mowday, historian, newspaper reporter, author of such books as: Along the Brandywine (Postcard), West Chester 6 Walking Tours, Life with a Flavor (Herr's history) Richie Ashburn, Unlikely Allies, Parkesburg, Coatesville, and others, will speak on the Battle on the Brandywine at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 15 at the West Caln Township Administration Building, 721 W. Kings Hwy, Wagontown, PA. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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The Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St., West Chester, will have its annual Greens sale, plus a bake sale, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19. In addition to greens and holly, items will include handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland. Special pricing for CCHS members, Meter parking is free on Saturday.

## ***History of Dowlin Forge***

Chester County author and storyteller Susannah Brody will talk about the long-term business connections between three generations of the Dowlin family and Rebecca Lukens and her descendants. The program will be at 6 PM on Thursday, November 3 at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Avenue, Coatesville. Cost is \$5; members free. Light refreshments will be served.

## ***Lecture series***

Sandra Momyer will talk about Historic Yellow and the Battle of the Clouds at the monthly lecture on Thursday, November 3, sponsored by the Mill at Anselma, which will be held at Bell Hall, Montgomery School on Route 113. \$5 per person; Anselma Mill members free. Wine and cheese reception at 6:30 PM; lecture starts at 7 PM.

## ***Flag Raising Ceremony***

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will host a Veterans Day flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial area in Kerr Park, Downingtown, at 10 AM on Friday, November 11.

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 101 Worthington Road, off Route 100 in Lionville, will have a Holiday Fair from 9 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, November 19. There will be baskets for auction (starting at 2 PM), baked goods, attic treasures, lunch, used toys and games, and craft supplies. Kids can have photo taken with Santa. Call 610-363-7285 or 610-269-4358 for more details.

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## ***Roast Beef Dinner***

The Old Caln Historical Society will hold its annual, multi-course roast beef dinner at 5 PM on Saturday, November 5, at the Thorndale Inn. George Burns, a historical comedian, will provide entertainment, and there may even be a "Gracie" sighting. Tickets are \$30 per person, including gratuity and the cost of entertainment. The public is invited. Call Joan 610-384-9496 or Lois 610-384-8153 for reservations.



### ***Christmas Bazaar***

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### ***CMMD Run***

The Team CMMD This Run's Personal 5K road race will be held at 9 AM on Saturday, November 5 at DHS West 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more info, see:

[www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal](http://www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal).

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*Details on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6*



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

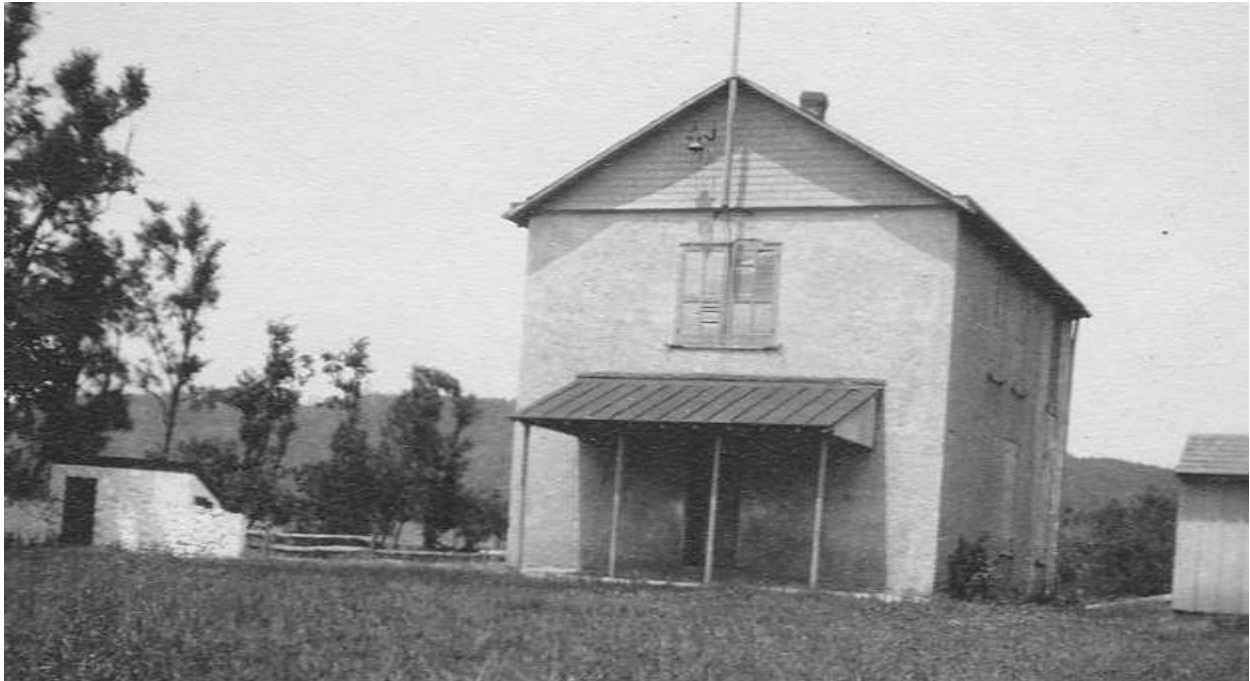
[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

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

Vol. 7, No. 44

November 10, 2016

## What & Where Is This?



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## Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

# What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of November 1980:

- The 112 units in the borough **apartment complex** located between the 300-block of East Lancaster and East Pennsylvania Avenues were going to switch to condominiums, according to John Scholtz, president of the Conco Development Corp. The complex had been known as the Lakeside Apartments at the time; currently, it's known as the Downingtown Commons.
- Sue Bertram was elected queen of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Homecoming**, sponsored by the DHS Alumni Association. Members of her court were Nancy Spatola, Connie Ascolese, Linda Stelzer, Brenda Durnell, Kitty Hayden, Kim Deck, Gina Napoleone, Chris Doran and Lois Isabella. Glen Wagner, who had served on the Downingtown School Board and its antecedents for more than 20 years, received the Honored Guest Award. Officers of the Alumni Association were Francis Summers, president; Carl Valente, vice president; Linda Brown, financial secretary; Debbie Garvey and Carol Brown, assistant financial secretaries; Kathy McNevech, corresponding secretary; and Hazel Miller, recording secretary.
- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, reported that about 35% of the 1,371 students enrolled at Downingtown's secondary schools participated in at least one of the 18 **interscholastic sports** offered during the 1979-80 school year.
- Honored guests at the **DHS Class of 1955's 25<sup>th</sup> reunion** were Sam Evans, retired principal; Vincent King, retired typing teacher; and Jean Steeley Pollock, the class's seventh grade teacher. Members of the reunion committee were Pete and Patricia Sciarretta, John and Janet (Fazzini) Polto, Tom and Rose Woodward, Joe and Louise (DiPietro) Chefko, Donald and Edie Miley, and Anthony Doto.
- Officers of the youth group at **St. James Episcopal Church** included Kathleen Gillooly, president; Mike Barnett, secretary; and Tracy Buell, treasurer. Also, Elizabeth Starr was the chairman of the parish's St. James Place committee, and John Gillooly was chairman of the membership committee.
- Brad Novak was "cool as any veteran," said Coach Chic Chicchino, as the sophomore kicked a 27-yard field goal with about two minutes on the clock, and the **DHS football team** beat Great Valley 18-15. Quarterback Brammer ran six yards for the Whippets' first score, but the Blue and Gold didn't score again until they capitalized on a Brent Sweeney interception in the fourth quarter and, subsequently, Reese Hunt capped a 14-play drive with a three-yard TD run. And Bruce Tiller knotted the score at 15-15, when he caught a pass for a two-point conversion.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 27 Ericsson Road, West Bradford, \$74,900; 303 Essex Street, Thorndale, \$46,900; 433 W. Prospect St., Downingtown, \$50,265; 616 Pancoast Lane, East Brandywine, \$91,200; 334 Pennwylt Court, Uwchlan, \$57,850; 19 Downing Circle, East Caln, \$148,500; 301 N. Whitford Road, West Whiteland, \$77,200.
- Winners of the Halloween **costume competition** at DHS were Jim Pike, Gail Cannella, Janie Stocton, Michelle Maskalick, Yvonne McFadden (French teacher), Patty Ann Marberger, Rhonda Kapinski, Donna Usher (art teacher), and Alray Johnson (driver-ed, teacher).
- **DHS soccer players** named to the All-Ches-Mont team included Mike Pastino, Dale Russell, Vince Forgione, Gary Johnson, Bob Trauger, Kirt Kessler, Tom Urban and Song-In-Son. And Paul Hurley was named the league's Coach of the Year.

## Little League field became site of first St. Joe's School



Anthony D'Addezio is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the former Little League field in Downingtown in the early 1950s. The cars are parked along West Pennsylvania Avenue, just west of Manor Avenue, and the outfield fence ran along the alley, between Lancaster and Pennsylvania Avenues. You'll find more info about the establishment of the Little League in Downingtown at:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2010%20Hist-O-Grams/2010.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2010%20Hist-O-Grams/2010.pdf).

Also, that's the West Ward School on the south side West Lancaster Avenue (1910-1958) on the upper part of the photo, and part of the original Messiah Lutheran Church is on the upper left side of the picture. However, the north side of West Lancaster Avenue was still undeveloped at that point. The property became the location of the first St. Joseph's Catholic School, which opened in 1954, and a new Little League diamond was built on Manor Avenue. The former parochial school was the location of the Regina Luminis Academy for about a decade, until it recently moved to the Norristown area. However, part of the former school is now occupied by Brandywine Grace Church, and several homes were built on the property near the intersection with Manor Avenue in 1991.

## Here's how to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).



# **Complete New Stock of Spring Dresses and Hats**

**Graduation Dresses a  
Specialty**

**A Variety of Sizes  
and Models.**

**At Tempting Prices  
Beautiful New Spring  
Hats All Sizes**



## **THE UNEEDA HAT SHOPPE**

**Mrs. Mary P. Entrekin, Prop.**

**West Lancaster Ave.**

**Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was originally published in the May 23, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

# What local folks were talking about in October 1964

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers 52 years ago:

- The Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board was advised by an architectural consultant that the **East Ward School**, which was built nearly 50 years earlier, was structurally sound and it could be used for 10 more years, after some minor repairs were made. The school directors also decided not to pursue a major renovation at the school, which would cost about \$100,000, in order to meet state requirements. Instead, they planned to eventually build a 24-room school on neighboring property, to replace the original East Ward School.

- The board of trustees at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, signed an agreement of sale to purchase the property of John and Wilmer Scott on the east side of Uwchlan Avenue, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, where a new church would be built in the borough. The new church was needed because the congregation had doubled over the past 10 years, and that growth pace was projected to continue. The 4.7-acre site, which cost \$42,750, was nine times larger than the original church property at 216 East Lancaster Avenue, currently the location of the Dane Décor furniture store. Fundraising by the 600 member-congregation over for 10-years was expected to cover the \$500,000 overall cost of the project.

The church was organized in 1861, with 15 charter members. Services were initially conducted for three years on the third floor in a building known as Mullin's Hall, at 119 East Lancaster Avenue. The original church was built for \$5,200 during the Civil War period, and was dedicated on September 1, 1864. Land on which it was constructed was donated by Jacob Parke, a member of the Society of Friends, and Silas Yerkes, a charter member. And the original parsonage on Washington Avenue was built for \$2,300 on land donated by A. P. Tutton.

- DHS senior Edward Hildebeitel was named a semi-finalists in the **National Merit Scholarship competition**, and Robin Mattison and Janet Strawsnyder were named commended competitors in the competition. Also, Cheryl Jordan was elected queen of the second annual **DHS Homecoming**. Members of her court were Gail Katherman, Donna Hilton, Cindy Dellet, Patricia Findley and Sally Campbell.

- The **DHS Class of 1954** held its 10<sup>th</sup> reunion at St. Anthony's Lodge. Members of the reunion committee included Theresa Ciarlone Francella, Frank Delio, Honey Lou McNelly Sack, Joan Perella McCue, David Pomento, Charlotte DiGiavantonio Capella and Peter Bonaduce.

- **Girl Scout and Brownie** troop leaders from Glenmoore and East Brandywine, who had a planning session at Fairview Presbyterian Church, included: Mrs. William Davey, Mrs. Charles Dixon, Ms. William Funk, Mrs. Eugene Gabriel, Mrs. Edward Ker, Mrs. Edward McClure, Mrs. Ray Nellius, Mrs. Warren Radcliffe and Mrs. Donald Yost.

- The Impalas, a doo-wop singing quartet, appeared at the **Downingtown VFW Post** on West Lancaster Avenue. Their rendition of "Sorry (I ran all the home)" ranked number 2 on the Billboard chart of top songs in 1959. You can see the group singing that song at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVNtokecAq4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVNtokecAq4).

- Six recent DHS grads who joined the **U.S. Air Force** included Richard Staneskie, Aaron Keeseey, Anthony Cozzone, Gary Holman, Frank Biondi and David Downing.

- Downingtown's **First Baptist Church** members who earned perfect attendance awards were Gilbert Cox, 43 years; Benjamin Russell, 18 years; and Mrs. Gerald Lammey, 15 years.

- Youngsters in the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, who were promoted from the nursery class to the kindergarten class, included Linda Freimuth, Joann Kochel, Heidi Bittmann and Donna Routzahn.
- Members of the executive board of the **Lionville Home and School Association** were Lester Smith, president; Mrs. Samuel Shaw, vice president; Mrs. Dale hart, secretary; Mrs. Howard Stimson, treasurer; Mrs. Richard Kerber, home room mothers; Mrs. Donald Kennedy, ways and means; Mrs. Richard O'Toole, membership; Mrs. Douglas Pagett, hospitality; and Mrs. Richard Irrgang, publicity.

## Pomodoro and Beaver Creek Tavern are participating in our Restaurant Raffle

The Pomodoro Pizza and Italian Restaurant and the Beaver Creek Tavern are two of the nine popular Downingtown area eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House, St. Anthony's Restaurant and the Thorndale Inn.

**Pomodoro**, located at 200 Chestnut St., Downingtown, is operated by Croce Cataldo, a native of Sicily who has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years and his wife, Claudia Plata. "We offer delectable Italian food," says Claudia. "We specialize in seafood dishes, make homemade pastas and even make delicious homemade desserts. We have a little bit of everything for every taste, from sandwiches and pizza to pasta dishes and sea food dishes. Our portions are generous, which make it a great value. Since our opening, a little more than a year ago, we have dedicated to give our best service to every customer. We are consistently dedicated to give to our neighbors in Downingtown our best."

The restaurant is open from 10 AM to 10 PM on Monday through Thursday, 10 AM through 11 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM until 9 PM on Sunday. For more info about Pomodoro, check out their website: [www.pomodorodowningtown.com/](http://www.pomodorodowningtown.com/). The restaurant can be reached by email via [info@pomodorodowningtown.com](mailto:info@pomodorodowningtown.com) or phone, (610) 873-0405.

The **Beaver Creek Tavern**, built as a duplex by a local farmer in 1845, is located at 1350 Bondsville Road, at the intersection of Bondsville Road and Kings Highway (Route 340), just outside of Downingtown and Thorndale, in Caln's Fisherville historic district. The tavern was opened by Stuart Deets and his nephew, James Dickinson, on January 4, 2010. Since the 1930s, the tavern has been known as the Fisherville or Kings Highway Inn, and from 2003 through 2008, it was Bacon's Tavern.

Besides its variety of popular entrees, the restaurant is well known for its special burger menu, which includes a bison burger, and its Philly cheesesteaks. And in addition to a revolving selection of 12 draft beers on tap, the tavern offers a wide selection of bottled beers, wines and liquors. Daily specials include: 50-cent wings and Texas Hold 'Em poker on Monday nights; tacos on Tuesday nights; a trivia competition on Thursday nights; and prime rib on Friday and Saturday nights. There is a special menu for kids under 12.

Among its many awards, Beaver Creek Tavern was the "Main Line Today" magazine's 2015 "Best of the Main Line" award winner for tavern-style dining.

Particularly unique are the outdoor porch and patio dining settings during temperate months.

The facility also features dining room seating for up to 45 guests, to accommodate private parties and wedding receptions. Wi-Fi service, and customized menus for corporate, social or themed events are available.

The tavern's hours are: 11 AM until midnight on Monday through Thursday, and 11 AM until 2 AM on Friday and Saturday. The kitchen closes at 10 PM on Wednesday through Saturday and at 9 PM on Sunday through Tuesday. For more info on the tavern, check out: [www.beavercreek-tavern.com](http://www.beavercreek-tavern.com), or call 484-593-0481.

The Historical Society's raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. By splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org)

### **Group Photo of the Week**



DHS musicians who made the Southeastern Pennsylvania District Band during the 1964-65 school year were, left to right: Barbara Curry, Lynne Dowlin, Bonnie Ker, Lee Ann Cohen, Rojaune Ellis and James Scofield.



# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Turkey Trot***

The 15th annual Chester County Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 24, at Downingtown West High School. The event include a 5k race/walk, a 2k walk, and a Kids Fun Run. Proceeds from the races support the DHS West cross-country team, and benefit Cure4Cam Childhood Cancer Foundation. For more details, see: <http://chestercountyturkeytrot.com/index.html>.

## ***Santa Claus***

Santa Claus will be at the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park at 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 3. For more info: [dtownhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:dtownhistoric@gmail.com).

## ***Girls on the Run***

The Greater Brandywine YMCA's Girls on the Run 5K will be held at Downingtown West High School at 9 AM on Saturday, December 3. For more details, see: [www.ymcagbw.org/5k](http://www.ymcagbw.org/5k).

## ***Tree Lighting***

Downingtown's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 9, next to the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park. The event, sponsored by the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, will also include caroling by the choir from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

## ***Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest***

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

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Vol. 7, No. 45

November 17, 2016

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

## **Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week**

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

# What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of March 1949:

- The borough's School Board met with school directors from seven neighboring township school systems and county and state school officials, in an effort to solve the **overcrowding** at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy). The borough's secondary school on Manor Avenue satisfied the needs of youngsters who lived in Downingtown, noted Charles Emery, the borough district's supervising principal (superintendent). However, the plant and staff at the junior-senior high school in the borough would not be able to adequately serve all the students, when the number from the outlying communities continued to grow at a fast pace. Also, increasing the size of the current junior-senior high school, to accommodate more pupils—including the immediate need for eight more classrooms and two industrial arts shops—would cost \$300,000, said George Nixdorf, president of the Downingtown School Board. That expense, and meeting the needs of inevitable enrollment growth in the near future, could only be accomplished by consolidation of the school districts in nearby rural townships with the borough school system, concluded the school officials at the meeting.

- Martin Binder, former fire chief, explained how the Downingtown Fire Department's new, **two-way radio system** was set up. It included two portable units on two of the fire companies' trucks, and a base station, including a 108-foot tall antenna, at the Alert's fire station. Cost of the system was to be shared by both companies.

- Two-year-old **Johnny Walls**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Walls, Downingtown, owed his life to the efforts of family physician Dr. Martin Neff, Minquas ambulance driver Frank Baen and two volunteers, who worked on the boy for about 45 minutes, after he had a seizure. Dr. Neff said the resuscitator on the ambulance played a critical role in saving the child's life.

- Featured at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School's annual **music recital** were a vocal quartet comprised of John Shisler, James Zafes, Gordon Carpenter and Ronald Hogg; and a clarinet quartette that included Louise Bartelmo, Margaret Sciarretta, Barbara Seibert and Joseph Streamer. Instrumentalists who performed solos were Robert Hughes, saxophone; Marvin Frederick, trombone; John Windle, drums; and Annabelle Warnick flute.

- Wallace Township residents who collected funds for the **Red Cross** included Mrs. William Rigg, Mrs. Noah Sensenig, Mrs. John Adams, Olive Williams, David Johnson, Joaquin Matlack, David Grimes, Grier Miller, Kenneth Comstock, William Harrop, Joseph Mason and Ralph Hannum.

- Elected as directors of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Herbert Ash, C.O. Brown, Jack Brownstein, Ernest Smedley, Ralph Lineinger, Samuel Evans and George Aumiller.

- A Downingtown man, who had married a Louisiana woman while he was serving on a U.S. Navy base near New Orleans during World War II, was granted a divorce in Chester County Court on grounds of desertion. The ex-sailor told Judge W. Butler Windle that when he had proposed that his wife should come back to Downingtown to live with him, she retorted, "You are not sticking me in any hick town."

- Elected during the annual re-organization of **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glen Moore, were Theodore Baumgard, president; Thomas Millard, secretary; George Crosby, treasurer; and Jacob Shoemaker, cemetery superintendent.

- Officers elected to lead the Lionville-based Twin Valley **4-H Club** were Meredith Ruark, president; George Ruark, vice president; Carl Ruth, secretary-treasurer; and Gwen Hamer, program chairman. Peggy LaRose, and Shirley and Elinor Matlack were new members.



- Girls who joined a newly formed **Brownie troop in Marshallton** included Pat and Lynn Klunder, June Brackbill, Barbara Busby, Anna Sheets, Kathleen Hall, Susie McCue, Ann Jefferis, Emily Lambert, Barbara Durnall and Jean Edwards. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Edward McCue and Mrs. H. S. Geisel.

- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown VFW Post** were William Wilmot, commander; Ralph Howard, senior vice commander; Jack Farrell, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Walter Hadfield, chaplain; and Marshall Deputy, John Rogers and James Fennelly, trustees. And elected to lead the **VFW Post's auxiliary** were Louise Ayers, president; Mrs. Earl Parker, senior vice president; Mrs. Henry Thomas, junior vice president; Mrs. William Reed, treasurer; Kathryn Ceulers, chaplain; and Mrs. Walter Hadfield, trustee.

## Group Photo of the Week



The faculty and staff at Beaver Creek School in Downingtown included, during the 2002-2003 school year, from right to left: first row—John Leonard, principal, Maurice Bowers, Betty Farnum, Debbie Flint, Anita Grimes, Judy Hart, Donna Carr, Jo Anne Heckman, Juanna Herman; second row—Michele McKibbin, Michelle Clegg, Sherry Disney, Diane White, Laurel Finch, Lori Guthrie, Judy LaDrew, Patty Andrey, Nicole Detwiler; third row—Kim Stefanski, Noriene Radcliffe, Nancy Drake, Robert Hoffman, Sharon Reinard, Jan Lowney, Kathy Freed, Nancy Petka; fourth row—Susan Welk, Lauren Reybitz, Linda Grigsby, June McKown, Robert Kasabo, Lisa Zimmerman, Barbara Stevenson, Allison Schmidt, Lucy Poole. Photo was provided by Jo Anne Heckman.

# It's the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House



Not one soul correctly identified the site in this 1902 photo of the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, on Route 113 in Lionville, which was built in 1756. The Uwchlan Friends Meeting was established in 1714. During the Revolutionary War, a Continental Army hospital was established at nearby Yellow Springs, but when that facility was overwhelmed with sick and wounded soldiers in 1778, the meeting house was commandeered by military physicians and converted into a military hospital. Beginning in 1904, Lionville High School used the meeting house for classes until 1932, when the high school closed. Subsequently, the building was occupied by Lionville Elementary School, until 1960. The Uwchlan Grange, which had been meeting in the building since 1906, purchased the property in 1920. However, the graveyard continued to be owned by the Friends Meeting. The Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan, which was formed in 1922, took ownership of the meeting house in 1963. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In 1976, the building was sold to the Uwchlan Conservation Trust, but the Community Club continues to use the building for its clubhouse and manages rentals.


## What local folks were talking about 86 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the summer of 1930:


- Trustees of the **Minquas Fire Co.** bought its adjoining property on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, formerly the garage and offices of the Downingtown Motor Co., for \$20,000. In addition to enabling the Minquas to expand its operation when needed, several members of the fire company talked about the option of constructing a community swimming pool inside the newly acquired building. In the fall of 1929, the fire company had installed bowling alleys to be used by the community, and a gymnasium on the second floor of the fire house, where the DHS boys' and girls' basketball teams practiced and played home games.

- Several **golf businesses** were opened in the Downingtown area. A miniature course was installed on the Bell Tavern property on Route 30 in East Caln, where players paid 35 cents for a round at night and 25 cents during the day. Also, golfers could practice—50 cents for 50 balls—on a driving range that was opened on the Howard Trego farm on Route 30 in the Gallagherville section of Caln. And a miniature golf course was opened on the Swan Hotel property on Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown.

## Vintage Ad of the Week



# 4th OF JULY



## SALE of USED CARS

### Beginning June 27th and Ending July 3rd

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**USED CARS that have been RECONDITIONED and will give you the SERVICE that you expect of them!**

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1929 HUDSON SEDAN \$875.00	1929 ESSEX COUPE, Wire Wheels \$550.00
1929 ESSEX COACH, Wire Wheels \$550.00	1929 ESSEX COACH \$525.00
1926 NASH SEDAN \$175.00	1927 FORD COUPE \$65.00
1928 ESSEX SEDAN \$375.00	1928 ESSEX COACH \$350.00
1924 Pierce Arrow Sedan \$400.00	1926 OVERLAND SEDAN \$100.00

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**Below are Specials from \$50 to \$150**

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**HUDSON COACH**  
**DODGE SEDAN**  
 STUDEBAKER SEDAN  
 HUDSON SPEEDSTER  
 HUDSON COACH  
 DODGE ROADSTER  
 FORD COUPE

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**EASY TERMS**
**OPEN EVENINGS**

## B. F. Leaman & Sons

**520 E. Lincoln Highway**
**Phone 600**
**Downingtown, Penna.**

This ad was originally published in the June 27, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

# Thorndale Inn is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Thorndale Inn, 430 Bonsdsville Road, Downingtown, is one of the nine, local eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Downingtown Country Club, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

The Thorndale Inn is open seven days a week and offers senior discounts. It is known for its friendly, family atmosphere, consistent quality food and exceptional customer service. The restaurant offers a wide selection of prime steaks and seafood dishes, as well as Italian specialties. The Inn offers a wide array of lunch and dinner specials, and large portions are reasonably priced. Owner Sam Estephan has operated the Thorndale Inn for 23 years. The Inn features a main dining room, comfortable bar with a fun and more casual atmosphere, plus two other private banquet rooms and a spacious outdoor deck. It can host all types of events, from wedding receptions to anniversary parties with up to 100 guests in a single room, to social gatherings or company meetings. Also available is complimentary WiFi Internet access throughout the Inn.

The Thorndale Inn was recently named Best Local Family Restaurant in Chester County by Clipper Magazine.

For more info on the restaurant, check out: [www.thorndaleinn.com/](http://www.thorndaleinn.com/).

## Bigger and Better

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, by splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalssociety.org)



# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Turkey Trot***

The 15th annual Chester County Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 24, at Downingtown West High School. The event include a 5k race/walk, a 2k walk, and a Kids Fun Run. Proceeds from the races support the DHS West cross-country team, and benefit Cure4Cam Childhood Cancer Foundation. For more details, see: <http://chestercountyturkeytrot.com/index.html>.

## ***Santa Claus***

Santa Claus will be at the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Downingtown's Kerr Park at 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 3. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Lord's Pantry! For more info: [dtownhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:dtownhistoric@gmail.com).

## ***Open House***

You can see the decorated historic buildings, which will be part of the open house at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum at 50 South First Ave., Coatesville from 5-8 PM on Friday, December 9. The event will also include the Lukens Band and a model railroad display. Visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good or a children's book.

## ***Girls on the Run***

The Greater Brandywine YMCA's Girls on the Run 5K will be held at Downingtown West High School at 9 AM on Saturday, December 3. For more details, see: [www.ymcagbw.org/5k](http://www.ymcagbw.org/5k).

## ***Tree Lighting***

Downingtown's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 9, next to the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park. The event, sponsored by the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, will also include caroling by the choir from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

## ***Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest***

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

## ***Christmas Parade***

Downingtown's Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, December 10. Besides Santa Claus and at least marching bands, the parade will include many local groups and businesses. For more details, see: [www.dtownchristmas.com/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

## ***Historical Markers***

Keith Smith, author of books on local historical topics will present interesting information on Historical Markers at 3:30 PM on Sunday, Nov. 20, at an East Brandywine Historical Commission program, at East Brandywine Township Building on Rte. 322 in Guthriesville. More information: Carol Sinex Schmidt 484 237-8071.

## ***Holly & Greens Sale***

The Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St., West Chester, will have its annual Greens sale, plus a bake sale, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19. In addition to greens and holly, items will include handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland. Special pricing for CCHS members, Meter parking is free on Saturday.

### ***Holiday Fair***

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 101 Worthington Road, off Route 100 in Lionville, will have a Holiday Fair from 9 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, November 19. There will be baskets for auction (ending at 2 PM), baked goods, attic treasures, lunch, used toys and games, and craft supplies. Kids can have photo taken with Santa. Call 610-363-7285 or 610-269-4358 for more details.

### ***Gift & Craft Show***

St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary will have its second annual Holiday Gift & Craft Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, November 19 at St. Anthony's lodge, 259 W. Church St., Downingtown. Refreshments, gift-wrapping and raffles will be available. For more info: contact Angela at 484-459-1905 or staladies@hotmail.com.

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Happy Thanksgiving



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 46

November 24, 2016

## What & Where Is This?



Yes, many of you will recognize that this is a photo of a mile marker. However, the first person to correctly tell us where that mile marker is located today will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 5***

# What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of November 1980:

- **Vernon “Zeke” Osborne** was named chief of the Downingtown Police Department. Osborne, a 29-year veteran on the 12-officer force, replaced Lewis Wilson, who had retired in February 1980.
- Representatives of the **Downingtown Historical Society** presented a \$1,200 check to Downingtown’s Borough Council. All told, the organization contributed \$10,800 to underwrite the borough history being written by Jane Davidson. The history was published in 1982.
- Officers elected to lead the Christian Endeavor primary group at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, were Tara Trego, president; Bill Weber, vice president; and Jason Trego, secretary-treasurer. Members of the nominating committee included Jim Runyen, Libby Hughes, Florence Krisch, Charles Popjoy and Adell Anthony.
- Elected to the **Lionville Youth Association** board were Don Wix, Otto Preikszas, Norm McQuillin, Fred Costello, John Bertram, Rich Evangelista, Tim Carrol and Tom Cliggett.
- Once again, sophomore kicker Brad Novak booted a field goal in the waning seconds of a game, as the **DHS football squad** beat Pottstown 16-14. The deciding three-pointer was set up when defensive end Chet Eagles blocked a Pottstown punt and carried the ball to the Trojan 15-yard line. Teddy Robinson was the Whippets’ leading rusher, with 139 yards on 26 carries.
- The Downingtown **Young Whippets’** 75-pound team, coached by George Murphy, Dennis Myers, Wes Pannebaker, Skip Weiss and George Wolf, won the Bert Bell Conference title by beating the Brandywine Youth Club 13-0.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 317 Huffman Drive, Exton, \$87,500; 123 Taylors Mill Road, Uwchlan, \$76,665; 8 Waterview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$73,000; 612 Pancoast Lane, East Brandywine, \$91,525; 1640 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$63,122; 243 Prospect Avenue, Downingtown, \$46,700; 117 Argyll Court, Thorndale, \$45,000.
- **Daniel Lyons**, a Lionville volunteer firefighter, participated in the rescue efforts at the MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas, which took 80 lives. Lyons was attending a business convention at Caesar’s Palace across street. After he showed Las Vegas Fire Department officials documents that he was a trained firefighter and ambulance corpsman, he became part of the rescue operation.
- **Randy Treer** dove into the Ohio River in Cincinnati and rescued a man whose car had plunged into the river. The car’s driver went under water twice before Treer saved him. Treer had just completed a 10-hour drive from his family’s home in Lionville to Cincinnati, where he was pursuing a degree at the University of Cincinnati.
- Coatesville Hospital announced plans to relocate as soon as December 1981, to the new **Brandywine Hospital** on Reeceville in Caln.
- Downingtown Junior High School pupils, who placed ninth in team competition at the National Conference of **Industrial Arts Students** in Gatlinburg, TN, included John Sciandra, Eileen Ferris, Lou Cippolini, Asit Upadhyay, Diane Sanner and Steve Foster.
- The real estate firm of Porter and Painter listed the **Downingtown United Methodist Church** on Brandywine Avenue for sale. The original part of church was constructed in 1899. The asking price was \$125,000.

***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 5***



## Group Photo of the Week



In the latter half of the 1980s, Downingtown's Borough Council was comprised of, left to right: seated Frank Manetta, Mayor John Fiore, Vince DiEuliis and Bill Whiteman; standing, Pete Karahalidis, Jim McGowan and Clarence Wilkerson.

## Vintage Ad of the Week

**J. J. NEWBERRY CO.**

**DOWNINGTOWN, PA.**

- SPECIAL ANKLETS, New Merchandise . . . . . pair 19c
- SPECIAL LADIES' RAYON P ANTIES . . . . . pair 25c
- LA BELLE TISSUES, 400 count . . . . . 23c
- MEN'S SHORTS, Special . . . . . 57c
- MEN'S BRIEFS, Special . . . . . 39c
- LADIES' DRESSES . . . . . 1.88
- DISH CLOTHS . . . . . each 5c
- DISH STRAINERS . . . . . 39c
- SPUNLO PANTIES . . . . . 49c

This ad was originally published in the March 24, 1949 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

# What was happening here 86 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in October of 1930:

- In an article about an upcoming **Downingtown School Board** meeting, where borough residents could express their recommendations regarding the local school district's current facilities and curriculum, the newspaper noted: "The local high school supports very little beyond the academic courses, and in a cosmopolitan population like Downingtown it will not require much argument to convince anyone that domestic science courses and vocational courses are essential because the number of people that can profit by the studies of Latin, French, mathematics, etc. are few, compared to those who could be helped by domestic science, vocational and manual courses."
- The intersection of Routes 100 and 30, now known as the **Exton Crossroads**, was beginning to bustle with several new businesses. They included Daniel Barbour's Sunoco gas station, R.W. Thomas's Junction Garage, Hatton's Exton Lodge, and M.H. Reese's Valley Creek Coffee House.
- **Downingtown's Park Commission** collected \$430. 50 in its fundraising campaign, so trees (costing \$2.50 and \$1.50) and shrubs (50 cents) could be purchased and planted in Kerr Memorial Park.
- **Miniature golf** continued to boom in the borough. The first indoor miniature golf course, installed in Howe's garage on Washington Avenue, was "cleverly" decorated with trees and bushes, so it resembled the outdoors. The garage was heated so people could play during the cold weather months. And Frank McGraw was conducting a tournament on his "Little Bill's" miniature golf course on West Church Street in the Johnsontown section of the borough.
- Local car dealers John McGowan & Son, Motor Service Co., B.F. Leaman & Sons and Wallace Motor Co. were advertising that they were authorized by the State Highway Department to perform the **second compulsory inspection of motor vehicles**. The inspection campaign started on September 15 and ended on October 31. Those who did not comply were subject to arrest.
- Significant improvements had been made to the dining room of the **Swan Hotel** in Downingtown's Center Square, according to H.G. Barry, the hotel's owner. At the time, the Downingtown Lion's Club and the Downingtown Business Men's Club conducted their weekly meetings there.
- The **DHS football team** "humbled" Phoenixville 18-0 in its season opener. The Blue and Gold tallied its first TD when Morris Yohn intercepted a pass and 40 yards to the end zone. Charles Horning tossed a 25-yard pass to Clarence Myers for the second Papertowners' score. And Joe Sciarretta's 30 yard run for a score in the fourth quarter ensured a victory.

## Here's how to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on:

[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# Thorndale Craft House is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Thorndale Craft House, 300 North Bailey Road, adjacent to the Ingleside Golf Course in Thorndale, is one of the nine, local eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Downingtown Country Club, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, the Station Tap, the Thorndale Inn and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

The main dining room at the Craft House offers lunch and dinner menus with a great selection, ranging from gourmet burgers to Thai flatbreads, as well as locally-sourced entrees. Special dinners include Tex Mex on Tuesdays and Ayce Pasta Night on Wednesdays. And live music is played for customer's pleasure on Friday and Saturday nights. Also, in addition to a wide variety of draught and bottled beers, the bar--known as the Tee Tavern--features a specially chosen house lager, locally brewed by Philadelphia Brewing Company. This crisp, light-bodied, golden beer is the very definition of refreshment. The combination of premium German pilsner malts and American Noble hops aims to please customers' taste buds and satisfy their thirst.

The Craft House's hours are 11:30 AM until late on Tuesday through Sunday. And the Tee Tavern is open from 4 PM until late on Tuesday through Friday, and opens at 11:30 AM on Saturdays and Sunday. You'll find more details about the menu, beers, opportunities for private parties, and other features at [www.thorndalecrafthouse.com/](http://www.thorndalecrafthouse.com/), or by calling 484-786-9008, or via [Thorndalecrafthouse@gmail.com](mailto:Thorndalecrafthouse@gmail.com).

## Bigger and Better

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, by splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)



# It's the barn at Glen Isle Farm



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person who correctly identified the building in the photo above as the barn at Glen Isle Farm. Currently, the property is the location of the Orangery Restaurant, 130 South Lloyd Ave., Downingtown. The Italian BYO restaurant is owned and operated by Paul and Sabrina Lutz. The photo of the barn, was taken by Roy D'Ginto of Downingtown in 1987, before significant deterioration occurred.

First opened as a tavern in 1735; the establishment was called "The Ship" in 1764. George Washington visited there, according to his diary entry for June 3, 1773. After British soldiers shot bullets into the tavern's wooden sign during the Revolutionary War, the business was moved to the Lancaster Pike and Ship Road in Exton in 1795. During the Civil War, the home at Glen Isle was a "safe house" on the Underground Railroad.

## Brief, but important

- Congratulations to several former DHS sports stars, who were recently inducted into a hall of fame. Tora Suber, Whippet girls' basketball star, who was an All-American at the University of Virginia and played in the WNBA, was part of the 2016 Chester County Sports Hall of Fame. And **Lex Ziobro** and **Felicia Ficca**, who were on the West Chester State College field hockey team that were 1975 AIWA Collegiate field hockey champions, which was part of the 2016 class inducted into the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame.

- Since it's part of the Thanksgiving holiday, Ashbridge House, the Historical Society headquarters will **NOT be open** on Sunday afternoon, November 27.



## **This was NOT the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House**



Now it's time for us to eat some crow. Rahn Brackin, the same person who is a truly perceptive scholar because he correctly identified the photo of the barn at Glen Isle Farm, as noted on the previous page, also informed us that the photo above is not the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, which we claimed in last week's Hist-O-Gram. We made that assumption because the 1902 photo donated to us years ago included the hand-written notation "Meeting House." And yes, we knew that the Uwchlan Meeting House, built in 1756, was constructed of stone. However, we unwisely suspected the stone exterior walls could have been covered with stucco, which was commonplace during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Well, we were wrong. Rahn says the building in the photo above actually was the Bell School, which was located on Bell Tavern Road, near Route 30, in East Caln. Several decades after the school was closed in 1924, the building became part of the D'Ambrosio car dealership, which has since been relocated further east on Route 30. And the school's former site is now occupied by the Wawa convenience store. Perplexing about the Bell School's identity, however, is the fact that there's another vintage photo of the school, in the Chester County Historical Society's photo archive, shows a building that was octagonal and had a cupola-like structure on top. It didn't look at all like the plain, quadrangular building in the photo above.

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## ***Holiday Events in W. Bradford***

Holiday events on Saturday, December 3 in West Bradford include: Breakfast with Santa from 8-11 AM at the Fire house; the Friends of Martin's Tavern group's Holiday Bazaar at the Marshallton blacksmith's shop from 10 AM to 3 PM and tree lighting at 4-6 PM at Martin's Tavern.

## ***Open House***

You can see the decorated historic buildings, which will be part of the open house at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum at 50 South First Ave., Coatesville from 5-8 PM on Friday, December 9. The event will also include the Lukens Band and a model railroad display. Visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good or a children's book.

## ***Local Author Day***

A meet & greet and roundtable discussion will be held at the Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue 9 AM until noon Saturday, December 3.

## ***Girls on the Run***

The Greater Brandywine YMCA's Girls on the Run 5K will be held at Downingtown West High School at 9 AM on Saturday, December 3. For more details, see: [www.ymcagbw.org/5k](http://www.ymcagbw.org/5k).

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A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

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### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

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

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

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*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 7, No. 47

December 1, 2016

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***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6***



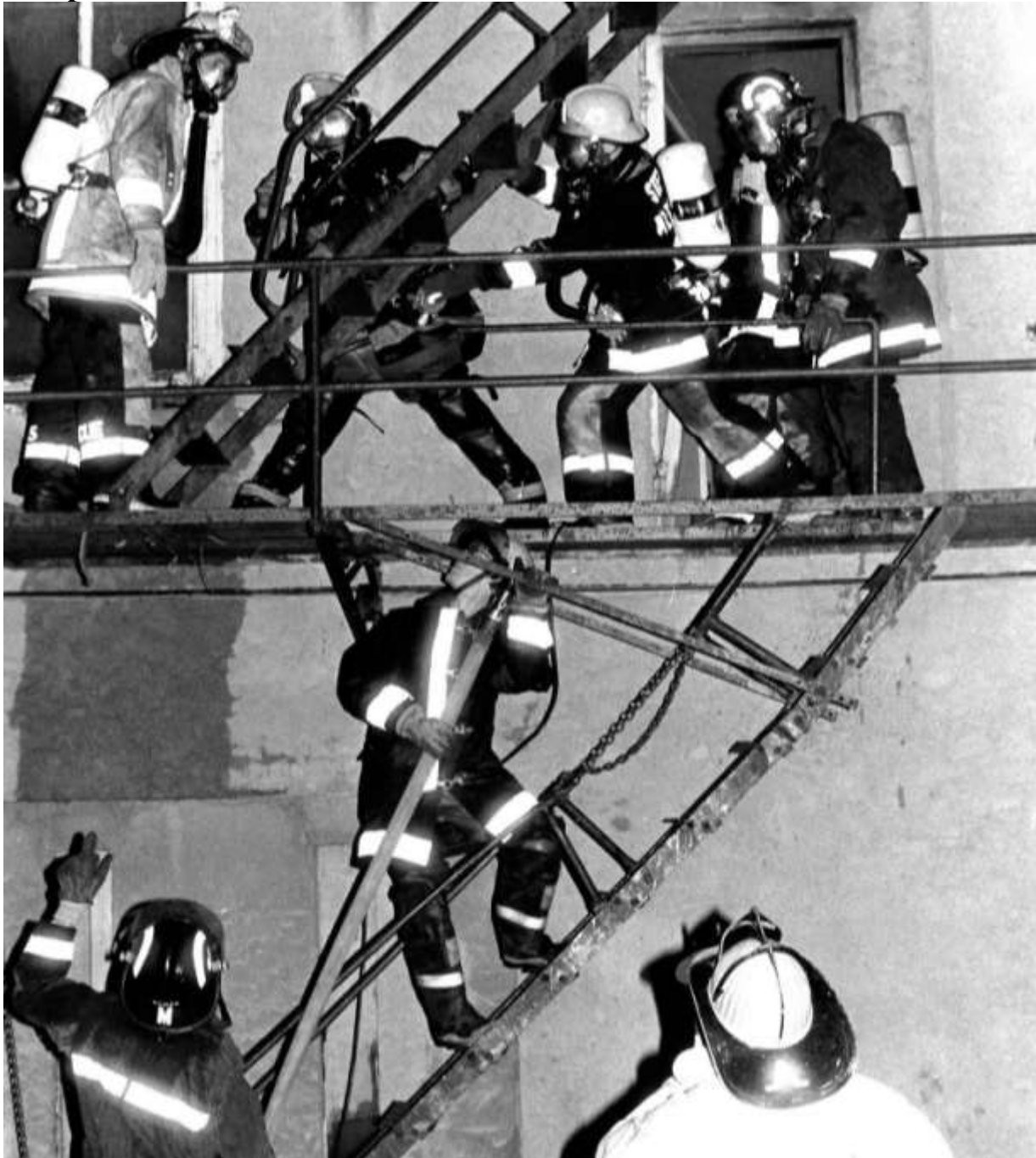
# What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of December 1980:

- **West Bradford Township** supervisors were considering disposing of septic tank waste (95% water, which would replenish ground water in the area) on the Highland Orchards property, if the state Department of Environmental Resources approved of the plan. Bob Hodge, owner of the orchard, said the procedure had been “an accepted practice for a long time.”
- The Downingtown School District’s **running population census** was better than the federal census, claimed Superintendent Charles Micken, because “we add good hard data every working day. We have a file card for everyone in the district.” Sources of population data included realtors, apartment house owners and operators, school registration figures, local municipalities’ housing officers, the county planning commission, the PA Economy League, plus the federal census. Downingtown school officials need constantly updated census data to project needs for staff, teachers, classrooms and equipment, noted Micken.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 43 Hunt Club Lane, West Pikeland, \$102,700; 404 Santillo Way, Uwchlan, \$81,165; 1105 Vermont Lane, West Bradford, \$48,855; 125 Governors Circle, East Brandywine, \$84,100; 164 Whiteland Hunt Road, West Whiteland, \$97,500; 211 Meadow Drive, Thorndale, \$59,500.
- The **Gold & Silver Brokerage**, 204 West Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was paying extraordinary prices for used jewelry: up to \$195 for gold class rings; up to \$125 for gold wedding bands; and up to \$700 for gold bracelets.
- DHS soccer coach **Paul Hurley** was named Ches-Mont Coach of the Year, after the Whippets finished second in the league, the team’s best performance in its six-year history. And the **DHS boys’ basketball team** beat Marple-Newtown 61-51 in the first game played in the new, 2,000-seat Wagner gymnasium, as Art Harlowe poured in 17 points. However, **DHS girls’ basketball** Coach Bob Schnure said, Unionville “totally destroyed us,” after the Whippets lost their season debut 74-13. Also, Sherri Clayton, Kelly Swartout and Danine DiBernardi were named to the **All Ches-Mont field hockey** team.
- **Christopher Coffman**, West Bradford, received a trophy from Delaware Governor Pierre DuPont for catching the largest (80 pounds, 93 inches long) white marlin in Delaware.
- DHS students Natalie Koh, Vera Kockler, Jeffrey Turner and Laura McGeorge were selected to attend the **Lukens Steel Management Conference**.
- Officers elected to lead the United Methodist Women at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Lee Bradley, president; Lois Walters, vice president; Frances McAllister, secretary; and Annetta Schollenberger, treasurer.
- Candidates for trustee at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Stanley Bowman, Mrs. Bruce Krum, Thomas Reber, Park Rissell, Peter Smith and Harold Thompson.
- Some 185 **Lionville Junior High School** students raised more than \$7,000 for the American Heart Association by participating in a Jump-Rope-A-Thon.

*More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6*

## Group Photo of the Week



This unusual group photo, provided by Jeff Stevens of the Alert Fire Co., was taken in April 1982, when there was a devastating fire at the Pennsylvania House Apartments on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. It shows firefighters on a fire escape landing, after they exited the interior of the second floor, where the floor had begun to cave in while they were doing a search-and-rescue operation for a reported homeless person inside. However, there was no one in the building. Firefighters in the photo, beginning at the bottom and left to right, are: Dave Dymek (Minquas), Bob Stevens (Alert), Bill Hawthorne (Alert), Steve DiLuigi (Alert), John Carbo (Alert), Jeff Stevens (Alert), and Ken Leslie (Thorndale).

# Historic bridge in borough to be upgraded

PennDOT representatives recently provided Downingtown Borough Council with an overview of expected renovations to the Lancaster Avenue bridge over the Brandywine, according to the *Downingtown News*, the borough's online newsletter. PennDOT project manager Michael Cutty said the bridge is in "poor" condition, but there is no need at this time for emergency repairs.

Cutty also noted that the bridge, built in 1921, is not on a historic registry of bridges or in a historic section of the borough. However, he said PennDOT recognizes the historic significance of the bridge and, will maintain the architectural design of the bridge. He anticipates a 2018 (at the earliest) start date. The new bridge will feature a 1-foot high curb with metal elements to separate the road from the sidewalk--a PennDOT requirement for all new bridges with pedestrian access. During renovations, it is expected that one lane of traffic will be allowed over the bridge. Traffic patterns will be determined at a later date.

You can subscribe to the *Downingtown News* by clicking on:

[https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001SlpVeMIx34n\\_ZPcrGg0Iq9zh30chXuC-8\\_3-XDki-qUevOUnyIYXSkYIHZ2W0TnoXaunPfAt0pdtXXdXXFhgaL7sneSPfEICVaZryRloRhs-wnCd4Q1HKzr7umbJAwXSydJ3GYwOWoWU5untZEIUC6HIxYls7pGmBasynk5rXpIeH6lR0-Yli5ThnVQhcGv2](https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001SlpVeMIx34n_ZPcrGg0Iq9zh30chXuC-8_3-XDki-qUevOUnyIYXSkYIHZ2W0TnoXaunPfAt0pdtXXdXXFhgaL7sneSPfEICVaZryRloRhs-wnCd4Q1HKzr7umbJAwXSydJ3GYwOWoWU5untZEIUC6HIxYls7pGmBasynk5rXpIeH6lR0-Yli5ThnVQhcGv2).

# What was happening here 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in December of 1955:

- The **Whitford Post Office**, located next to Ball and Ball on Route 30, was slated to close on December 31.
- Members of the **Civic Improvement Committee** for revitalization of the borough's central business district included: George Aumiller and William Mittel, Downingtown Rotary Club; Clifford Orr, Horace Shanely and K.E. Shihadeh, Downingtown Lions Club; Joseph Miller and Roland Moore, Downingtown Chamber of Commerce; and Allan Hughes and Joseph Poltrone, Downingtown Optimist Club.
- Officers elected by members of the **Chester Valley Rebekah Lodge**, Lionville, were Rebecca Haldeman, noble grand; Irma Kochel, vice grand; Mrs. Eber Wilson, recording secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Smedley, financial secretary; and Mrs. John Trego, treasurer.
- Philomena DiBerardinis and Esther Zittle, both DHS students, won first and third prizes, respectively, in the **Voice of Democracy contest** sponsored by the Coatesville Jaycees.
- The **DHS football team** finished second in the Ches-Mont League, after it beat Pottstown 12-0 in the annual Thanksgiving Day game. The Whippets' first score came on a 41-yard pass play from quarterback John Chilla to John Bousum. Harry Watson dove into the end zone from the 2-yard line for the second TD. Bousum, Chilla and tackle James Walton were named to the All C-M first team. Watson was selected for the second team.
- C.O. Brown was elected president of the **Downingtown Businessmen's Club**. Other officers were Lee Schneider, vice president; Leland Wilson, treasurer; and William Gibbs, secretary.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT  
STARTS TOMORROW  
ON  
THE BEAUTIFUL "LITTLE BILL" GOLF COURSE**  
**FRANK McGRAW, Prop.**  
**CHURCH STREET DOWNINGTOWN, PENNA.**



**ENTER THIS TOURNAMENT NOW!**

**QUALIFYING ROUND STARTS TOMORROW**

**October 4th**

**MEN'S AND LADIES' DIVISIONS**

**BEAUTIFUL PRIZES FOR WINNERS**

**FINALS WILL BE PLAYED WEEK OF OCTOBER 13th**

**COME TO THE COURSE NOW — LEARN THE PARTICULARS  
WATCH THE PAPERS**

**THE "LITTLE BILL" GOLF COURSE**  
**CHURCH STREET DOWNINGTOWN, PA.**

This ad was originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in October 1930.



# Station Tap/Bottle Room is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Station Tap and Bottle Room are one of the nine, local eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Downingtown Country Club, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, the Thorndale Inn, the Thorndale Craft House and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

## Station Tap/Bottle Room

The Station Tap, 207 West Lancaster Avenue and the adjoining Bottle Room, 209 West Lancaster Avenue are hip hangouts with a rotating tap list & extensive bottle menu along with a Sunday comfort-food brunch.

Food is served at the Station Tap from 3-11 PM, Monday through Thursday; noon until midnight on Friday and Saturday; and brunch from 11 AM until 3 PM on Sundays. Happy Hour runs from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Instead of reservations, Station Taproom is a first-come, first-served restaurant.

You'll find a wide variety of Station Tap's delicious dinner menu offerings, which include lots of local ingredients, via: [www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Fall-Menu2.pdf](http://www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Fall-Menu2.pdf). The restaurant also has a huge selection of craft beers on tap and superior wines and whiskeys.

To see the vast number of bottled beer available at the Bottle Room, check out: [www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/bottle-list-12.12.pdf](http://www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/bottle-list-12.12.pdf).

For more information about Station Tap's offerings: call 484.593.0560 or contact [sean@stationtaproom.com](mailto:sean@stationtaproom.com).

## Bigger and better

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, by splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150. Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Mile Marker is now in front of Historical Society



Tommy Lee is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly tell us that the historic mile marker in the photo above is currently located in front of Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters on Route 30, in the front of the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center. The letters and numbers incised on the granite tombstone-shaped marker were used on the 1795 Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, the first, long-distance, toll road built in the United States. The "29 M" and the "P" chiseled into the marker show that stone was 29 miles west of the Market Street Bridge, at 30th Street in Philadelphia.

## Miss a Hist-O-Gram published in November?

You can access any of the Hist-O-Grams published in November, by clicking on the coding below.

November 3—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%203%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%203%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

November 10—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2010%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2010%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

November 17—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2017%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2017%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

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# **Luminaria candles on sale on Sundays; Clip/Paste sessions slated for Dec. 4**

Those who wish to buy Luminaria candles or bases, may purchase them from 1-4 PM on Sundays, December 4 and December 11 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, where you can park.

And we're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's monthly clip/paste sessions, to be held at Ashbridge House, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 4. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection. You can park in the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant lot next door.

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### ***Tree Lighting***

East Brandywine Township's tree lighting ceremony will be held from 3-5 PM on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the East Brandywine Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road. Lots of free ornaments for the children and adults to make and place on the tree! Homemade cookies and hot chocolate for everyone. Bring a non-perishable item or socks, hats or mittens for the Lords Pantry, and get a chance to "Throw the Switch" and light the tree. Tree lighting will take place at 4:30 PM.

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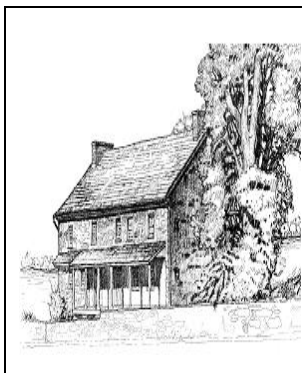
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Vol. 7, No. 48

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# What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the early part of April 1949:

- **Pepperidge Farm Inc.** of Norwalk, CT, opened an employment office on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown and was beginning to hire people to work in its bakery to be opened in May in the former Acorn Iron building on Chestnut Street in the borough. Local people who had begun training in Norwalk before working in the Downingtown plant included Arthur Hoopes, and Rose Colella.

- Over 300 spectators turned out at Kerr Park for the third annual **Marble Tournament**, which was sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association. Some 125 boys and girls participated. John Fusco, a sixth grader, won the first place trophy, and his brother, Steven, a third grader, came in second. Eighth grader William Tipton was third, and first grader Larry Dague was given an honorable mention. Other grade level winners included James DiBerardinis, second grade; Richard Keers, fourth grade; and seventh grader Herbert Lee.

- Residents in the Downingtown neighborhood of **Central Presbyterian Church** (now Dane Décor) enjoyed hearing hymns amplified on a recorder from the church tower every evening at sundown. But when the recorder developed a glitch and many East Ward residents were roused from their sleep when the music kicked in at 2 AM, they called the borough police.

- And music created another local problem, momentarily, when it appeared that there would not be enough **housing** provided by Downingtown area citizens for the 130 visiting high school musicians from the Philadelphia suburbs, who were expected to practice together for two days before playing in the Southeastern Pennsylvania District band concert at the auditorium of the junior-senior high school.

- The Downingtown Chamber of Commerce reported that it would cost between \$1,700 and \$2,000 to have a 4-feet x 6-feet, bronze marker with all the names of local service men listed as the **World War II Plaque** to be installed at the triangle at Kerr Park.

- The **Chester Valley Rebekah Lodge** was established in Lionville. Charter officers were Grace Benner, noble grand; Anna Wilson, vice grand; Elizabeth Stinson, recording secretary; Eva Wheatley, financial secretary; Dorothy Lambert, treasurer; Edna Windle, noble grand's right supporter; Mary Lou Ross, noble grand's left supporter; Gladys Blake, warden; Mary Funderwhite, inside guardian; and Alice Locke, outside guardian.

- Members of **Cub Pack 52, Marshallton**, who participated in several activities were Barry Wickersham, Woody Bossert, Alan Miller, Richard Busby, Larry and David Hoffman, Kenneth and Charles Brooks, Everett and Russell Ramsay, Donald Lambert, Ralph Hall and Charles Bunting. And **Boy Scouts from Lionville** who spent two days at camping at Valley Hill were Dick Stoudt, Ronny Otter, Tommy Fisher, Carl Ruth, Harry Dewees, and George and Meredith Ruark.

- Richard Warren was elected president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Other officers were Ernest Smedley, vice president; George Aumiller, secretary; and Herbert Ash, treasurer.

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown VFW Post** were William Wilmot, commander; Ralph Howard, senior vice commander; Jack Farrell, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Walter Hadfield, chaplain; and directors Marshall Deputy, John Rogers and James Fennelly.



## It's at 350 Washington Avenue in the borough



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as 350 Washington Avenue in Downingtown. And for some inexplicable reason, the large Victorian building was known as “The Cottages” many years ago.

## What local folks were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the latter part of October 1964:

- The new **report card system**, used by the junior and senior high schools, prompted a lengthy discussion at a Downingtown Joint High School Board meeting. The new report card consisted of several color sheets and a cardboard back which ultimately became the permanent record. By using carbon paper, one colored sheet was sent to parents at home, and another sheet could be used as a mid-term failure warning system to notify parents that their child was not working up to their capability. Lowering a passing grade to a 60 also was a point of interest.
- More than 250 residents of **West Pikeland Township** petitioned for the repeal of the controversial state law, Act 299, which required consolidated of small school districts. The petition signers claimed that implementation of merger law would increase taxes by 50 percent.

- New officers of the Philathea Bible Class at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. Norman Davis, president; Mrs. Clara Emery, vice president; Mrs. Emmett Gordon, secretary; and Mrs. Francis Shaeffer, treasurer.
- The **Brandywine-Wallace School PTA** realized a profit of \$250 from the 440 dinners served at a PTA supper. The group planned to run a bake sale on Election Day at the East Brandywine and Glenmoore Fire Companies.
- Members of the cast in the **DHS Senior Class play**, "Arsenic and Old Lace," included Janet Strawsnyder, Robert Bruton, Gene Martin, Edwin Conner, Lex Jervis, Peggy Woodland, Barbara Booth, Kris Yeaworth, James Sanders, Edward Hildebeitel, Geoffrey Roehrs, Carl Harper and William Berndt.
- Edwin Smedley was installed as Master of the **Uwchlan Grange**. Also officers installed were Elroy Buttermann, overseer; George Taylor, lecturer; Edith Oberholser, chaplain; Joseph Kester, steward; Jonathan Styer, assistant steward; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer; Isabel Acker, treasurer; and Hazel Smedley, gatekeeper.
- The Ladies Auxiliary of the **East Brandywine Fire Co.**, appointed to a nominating committee were Peg Frazer, Myra Thomas and Nickie Anderson. Members of the audit committee included Helen Frazer, Beverly Williams and Mardette Cumens.
- Gold watches were presented to Bud Steffy, Dan Zittle, George Quinn and Ashton Lammey because they had signed up at least 12 new members of the Downingtown **Moose Lodge**.
- Elected to lead the Parents Group of the new **Pickering Valley School** were James McClung, president; Mrs. James Martin, vice president; and Cora Miller, treasurer.
- New members of the board of the **Whitford Country Club** were Carl Bucks, A. N. Gustafson, Dale Hartsell, Trimble Kent, Hugh Kenworthy, Robert Kistler and Ilario Polite.
- Responses to a survey of **Wallace Township** residents, completed as part of the development of a comprehensive plan, determined that: 47 percent of them wanted to keep the township rural.
- Placekicker Roy Nellius booted two extra points, and that made the difference as the **DHS football team** beat Pottstown 13-12 before a Homecoming crowd. The two Whippet scores came via a pass from quarterback Bill Kline to Bob Poole and a 2-yard plunge into the end zone by Nellius.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 7***



Vintage Ad of the Week



**Practice  
Real  
Economy—  
Buy Your**

**G R O C E R I E S**  
HERE WHERE YOU SAVE MONEY

<b>SALMON</b> First Quality Select Pink <b>Can 17c</b>	<b>FREE! FREE!</b> Beautiful Lamp Bases with delicious "Coffee Blossoms" Assorted Colors and Designs and Good Flavored Coffee <b>Both 42c</b>	<b>Marshmallows</b> Pound Boxes or Bulk <b>25c lb.</b>
<b>PICKLES</b> Sour or Dill <b>Qt. Jar 25c</b>		<b>FELIN'S</b> PURE LARD <b>Lb. Bricks 2 for 25c</b>

Bell Phone 643-W  
Free Delivery

**MITTEL'S**

West Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, Pa.

Bell Phone 643-W  
Free Delivery

This Ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* in July 1930.

## Here's how to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on:  
[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

*More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 7*

## Group Photo of the Week



Pictured above are some of people who worked on the kitchen staff at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown. The photo was taken in 1949. The people in the photo include: Lucia Taraschi, Dorinda Valocchi, Mary Cortelessa, Schollastra DiOttavio, Lou D'Addezio, Paulo Taraschi, Ventura Viscichini, Jenny Mancini and Mary Manetta.

## Luminaria candles & historic tree ornaments are on sale on Sundays, December 11 & 18

Those who wish to buy Luminaria candles and bases, or Christmas tree ornaments depicting historic Downingtown sites may purchase them from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 11 and December 18 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, where you can park.

*More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 7*

## **Downingtown Country Club & Milito's Ristorante are participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle**

The Downingtown Country Club's Seven Tap-Tavern and Milito's Ristorante are two of the local eating establishments that are participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Station Tap/Bottle Room, Georgio's, Pomodoro, the Thorndale Inn, the Thorndale Craft House and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

### **Downingtown Country Club**

Downingtown Country Club's Seven Tap-Tavern is a cool, friendly tavern featuring craft beers, an exciting menu and large screen TV's everywhere. This is not your ordinary sports bar! The name of the tavern originates from Ron Jaworski's jersey number, worn during his long and distinguished NFL career with the Philadelphia Eagles. At Seven Tap-Tavern, we have specials every night of the week, theme nights, you name it! With the gorgeous views of our meticulously maintained golf course as your backdrop, Seven Tap-Tavern is the perfect place for before and after your round.

### **Milito's Ristorante**

Milito's Ristorante is filled with rustic charm, dating back to its early days as a working mill. From the high ceilings, exposed stone, and the giant paper mill wheel that marks the entrance to the private dining room, the ambiance of the building is the perfect backdrop for an evening with your sweetheart or a fun time catching up with friends.

The building also has a rich industrial history, particularly the paperboard industry. It dates back before the Civil War and was originally used as a saw mill. The saw mill was converted to a paper mill in 1881 by a German immigrant, Frederick Bicking. By 1909, the building was producing approximately 40 tons of paper products every day.

The building sits nestled along the banks of the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek which provided the water needed to turn a waterwheel, which in turn powered a large shaft and gears.

As Downingtown grew and evolved into the family-friendly dining and shopping district, production at the paper mill slowed and in 2001, it closed its doors. It was purchased by investors in 2004, and was renovated and reopened as a restaurant in 2009. During the renovation, the developers preserved the historical integrity of the building. Today, the open rafters display the original pulley system, the bull wheels at the front and back of the restaurant, and the 176-foot tall chimney, which still stands in the parking lot.

Milito's Ristorante—which serves only the best, fresh, Italian food, homemade desserts, and signature cocktails—is owned and operated by Joe and Leslie Milito. The traditional Italian dishes leave guests feeling as if they had just been swept away on a whirlwind tour of Italy. While the artful plating and creative recipes by Executive Chef James Brunner keeps them coming back for more.

### **Bigger and better**

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, by splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150. Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website: [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org), or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Open House***

You can see the decorated historic buildings, which will be part of the open house at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum at 50 South First Ave., Coatesville from 5-8 PM on Friday, December 9. The event will also include the Lukens Band and a model railroad display. Visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good or a children's book.

### ***Tree Lighting***

Downingtown's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 9, next to the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park. The event, sponsored by the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, will also include caroling by the choir from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

### ***Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest***

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

### ***Christmas Parade***

Downingtown's Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, December 10. Besides Santa Claus and at least marching bands, the parade will include many local groups and businesses. For more details, see: [www.dtownchristmas.com/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

### ***Holly & Greens Sale***

The Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St., West Chester, will have its annual Greens sale, plus a bake sale, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10. In addition to greens and holly, items will include handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland. Special pricing for CCHS members, Meter parking is free on Saturday. And the Museum and Genealogy Library will have free admission on December 9 and 10, during the sale.

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

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



***Banquet room for rent***

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 49

December 15, 2016

## What & Where Is This?



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

## Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

# What local folks were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of November 1964:

- The **Downingtown Farmers Market**, on Route 30 in East Caln, was celebrating its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Back in 1952, when the market had its grand opening, cars trying to reach the market were lined up for three miles to the west, as far away as Thorndale, and for a comparable distance to the east, to Exton.
- The Downingtown Area School Board reviewed plans for a macadam **ice skating rink** to be installed at Lionville Elementary School. The school's PTA, which had proposed the rink, raised \$600 to help pay for its construction.
- Winners of a **political slogan contest**, conducted in the Problems of Democracy classes at DHS, included: Connie Webster, first prize—"Peace, not pieces...Vote Democratic," and James Clark, second prize—"Remember the Alamo: The Texans made a mess of that, too."
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, who were promoted at a Court of Honor included: Tom Hickey, life; John Nixdorf, star; Mike McCardell, Chuck Mitman and Palmer Raysor, first class; Doug Mecray, Brian Ricci, David Ratcliff, Douglas Kiernan and Frank Bishop, second class; and William Stevens, tenderfoot.
- Although the **Whippet offensive line** was outweighed by an average of 30 pounds per man, compared to O.J. Roberts' linemen, they provided DHS quarterback Bill Kline enough time to toss three touchdown passes, as Downingtown beat the Wildcats 21-6. And the defensive line bottled up the Bucktowners' ground attack and forced several interceptions and fumbles. Oscar Asparagus caught two TD receptions, and Roy Nellius pulled in the other.
- Winners in the costume competition at the Halloween party of the **Ladies of St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, included: Mrs. Samuel Filoromo, prettiest; Mrs. Richard Short, most original; Dolly Colella and Mrs. John Belnomi, ugliest; Mrs. Adam Ehling, funniest; Mrs. George Dailey and Mrs. Joseph Massucci, best couple; Mrs. Joseph Cipollini, most unusual; and Mrs. Joseph Driscoll, cutest.
- Committee chairmen of the **Pickering Valley School Association** were Mrs. Grover Hallman and Mrs. Norman Shea, programs; Mrs. Floyd Hilton, hospitality; Mrs. Maurice Garvine and Mrs. Robert Smiley, membership; Mrs. Harley Fink and Mrs. Robert MacDougal, by-laws; Mrs. Albert Merkle, ways and means; and Mrs. James Martin, publicity.
- Members of **Cub Pack 2**, Downingtown, who won prizes in the Halloween party costume competition, included: Blake Dorman, prettiest; Tommy Hipple, most original; and Jerry Keen, Eddie Miller, Roger Patrizio and Steve Hemberger, who were dressed as Goldilocks and the three bears.
- DHS students who auditioned for the Southeastern Pennsylvania **District Chorus** were Carol French, Patricia Whitely, Cindy Plank, Gina Myers, Barbara Peirson, Barbara Curry, Betty Mercer, Donald McDermott, Danny Yost, Gene Martin, Howard Fitzgerald and Jim Schofield.
- Youngsters who won prizes for their costumes at the Halloween party at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, included: In the 1-6 year old group, Joyce Rigel, Donald Satterthwait, Ann Bomberger and Kenny Stoudt; and Betty Davis, Judy Bittmann, Lynn Taylor, Vern Shaw, Charlene Barton and Edna Pivonka in the 6-14 year old group.
- **Ninth grade class officers** at the junior high school were Susie Seel, president; Tom Stern, vice president; Sherry Stong, secretary; and Kenny Baen, treasurer.

**See page 6 for last chance to buy Restaurant Raffle tickets**



## It was the flour mill at Viaduct & Pennsylvania Avenues



Dennis Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the mill at Viaduct and West Lancaster Avenues in Downingtown. It was known as the Viaduct Roller Flour Mill, when it was built in 1889 by E. Vinton Philips. In recent years, the building has been occupied by Bob Wagner's Mill Carpet, WeatherMaster Windows and CarQuest Auto Parts. The team of horses and wagon, carrying a replica of Downingtown's Log House in the above photo, was ready to participate in the 1909 parade, celebrating Downingtown's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation as a borough. The land on which the mill was built originally was purchased in 1886 to be used as the planned site for the First Baptist Church, which ultimately was built at Manor and West Lancaster Avenues.

## Brief, but important

1. Francis Taraschi, trustee at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown, tells us that one of the women pictured in the Group Photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram was incorrectly identified as Schollastra DiOttavio. The woman was Mary Sperduti. Also, the spelling for Mrs. Caporale's first name is Edorinda, not Dorinda. The photo was taken on November 29, 1949, when St. Anthony was celebrating its 30th anniversary. The 25th anniversary was not celebrated due to the war; members of the Lodge waited for the war to end and the return of family members. You can access the photo via: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

2. Published in the September 20, 1903 edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer: *About 1,000 persons witnessed the harness races at the formal opening of the new Kerr Racetrack at Downingtown this afternoon.* The one-half mile track was located at the intersection of Brandywine Avenue and Boot Road. Downingtown High School's football team played its home games in the track's interior field in the early 20th Century.

**See page 6 for last chance to buy a Restaurant Raffle ticket**



# What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of April 1949:

- Representatives of school boards from seven surrounding townships unanimously voted to help the Downingtown borough's school system accommodate the increasing enrollment at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School by participating in a **consolidation plan**. The plan included a \$300,000 addition to the junior-senior building, which had to be approved by neighboring township taxpayers in a referendum in the November elections. The plan also called for the establishment of a joint high school board, comprised of members from the townships as well as the borough.
- A fire of an undermined cause destroyed much of the **Fraser Feed Mill** on Reed Road in East Brandywine, which was owned and operated by John Fraser of Guthriesville.
- About 2,500 people came to the **Point-to-Point races** held on the Cann and Baldwin farms in Marshallton. Members of the Marshallton branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary, who sold food at the event included Mrs. Clarence Moore, Mrs. Henry Moore, Mrs. Earl LeFevre, Mrs. Fred Hoopes, Mrs. Harry Cann, Mrs. Harvey Young, Mrs. D. Ciaffoni, Mrs. Andrew Brookover and Mary Wickersham.
- Elected to lead the **Glen Moore Improvement Society** were John Galt, president; Eleanor Bartol, vice president; Mrs. Noah Sensenig, secretary; and Niels Jensen, treasurer.
- New members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were: William Rowland, Rev. George Bass, John Snyder, Earl Foreman, Anthony DiLuigi, Edward Peterson and Walter McClure.
- **Student-musicians from DHS**, chosen to participate in the Southeastern Pennsylvania District Music Festival held at the high school, included: Janet Kriebel, John Windle, Paul Miller, James Warnick, Everett Lang, Frank DiSilvestro, Christy Christ, Frances Mascherino, Barbara Seibert, Joseph Streamer, Joan Lenhardt, Margaret Sciarretta and Louise Bartelmo.
- Reelected as officers of the Downingtown branch of the **Ladies Auxiliary of Chester County Hospital** were: Mrs. Herbert Ash, president; Mrs. William Mittel, vice president; Mrs. Arthur Philips, secretary; and Mrs. Shartle Brookover, treasurer.
- Elected as officers of the **East Ward School Mothers Club** were Mrs. John Miller, president; Mrs. Ogier Norris, vice president; Mrs. Frederick Bicking, secretary; and Mrs. George Wagner, treasurer.
- New officers of the **St. Anthony's Lodge Ladies Auxiliary** were Agnes Girafalco, president; Mary Mento, vice president; Eva Taraschi, secretary; and Florence Pomento, treasurer.
- Officers elected to lead the **Junior Women's Club of Uwchlan** were Mrs. Samuel Windham, president; Mrs. Paul Otter, vice president; Mrs. Glenn Plank secretary; and Mrs. Wayne Bickel, treasurer.
- Mrs. John Hadfield was elected president of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club**. Also elected were Mrs. Arthur Anderson, first vice president; Mrs. Carl Engle, second vice president; Mrs. Charles Sigle, recording secretary; Mrs. Horace Miller, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William Reed, treasurer.
- Gordon Carpenter's mound performance—six strikeouts and only one walk—helped the **DHS baseball team** beat West Chester 3-1. In the first inning, Bill Davis stole home to give the Whippets their first run. Additional runs were tallied by Ron Hogg and Johnny Talierco.

**See page 6 for last chance to buy Restaurant Raffle tickets**

Vintage Ad of the Week

*Come and see  
for yourself...*



**FREE DEMONSTRATION**

---

**ELECTRIC COOKING  
AND  
HOME FREEZING  
OF FOODS**

Expert home economists will present an exciting demonstration of electric cooking and home freezing. Come see an entire meal prepared.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21  
2:00 P. M.**

**DOWNINGTOWN DEPT. STORE  
122 East Lancaster Ave.  
Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was originally published in the April 16, 1949 edition of the Daily Local News.

**See page 6 for last chance to buy Restaurant Raffle tickets**

# **Last chance to buy a Restaurant Raffle ticket**

You can still buy a ticket for the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle because the winning tickets won't be drawn Monday night, December 19. And you don't have to be at the drawing to win.

This year's raffle is bigger and better than ever. That's because each raffle ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners this year. By splitting the nine great, local restaurants participating in the raffle into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to buy a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Downingtown area restaurants participating in the raffle include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, St. Anthony's, The Station Tap/Bottle Room, The Thorndale Craft House, Downingtown Country Club, and the Thorndale Inn.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 18. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

# **Luminaria candles & historic tree ornaments are on sale on Sunday afternoon, December 18**

Those who wish to buy Luminaria candles and bases, or Christmas tree ornaments depicting historic Downingtown sites may purchase them from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 18 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, where you can park.

# **How to trace your home's history**

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti,*



*corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

## **Group Photo**



The Downingtown Historical Society's board of directors in the early 1980s was comprised of, left to right: front row, Eleanor Landis, Ray Waechter, and Thomas Brookover; back row, Fran Ash, Joe Crawford, Jim McGowan, unknown, and Sara Aumiller.

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Madame Curie***

Ann Atkins, author, historian, educator, will present Part 2 of her program on Madame Curie when the West Caln Historical Society meets 7 PM on Tuesday, January 17 at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome and the meetings are free to all.

### ***Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest***

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

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# Merry Christmas!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 7, No. 50

December 22, 2016

## What & Where Is This?



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# Internet site is new source of historic, local news

We recently discovered another source of historic information online, about the Downingtown area, which was originally published in newspapers many years ago.

- A new school, opened in Downingtown in 1910, which was the first building constructed solely as a public school in the borough. (*Originally called the Central School, grades 1-12; it later was known as the West Ward Elementary School after the junior-senior high school—now the STEM Academy—on Manor Avenue opened in 1932*). Since a referendum had determined that the school on West Lancaster Avenue would be constructed for \$60,000 and the cost ultimately was about \$58,000, the school board **handed some \$2,000 back** to the borough.—May 8, 1910, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- The source of much of the pollution of the Brandywine Creek in the Downingtown Borough area was determined to be **19 water closets** emptying into the streams, as well as a large quantity of refuse from a dyeing mill.—August 21, 1907, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- Members of the Harrisburg Motor Club were warned about a **speed trap on Route 30** in Downingtown. To inform unsuspecting motorists, a warning sign had been erected on the highway, at both ends of the borough. Those ensnared for exceeding the speed limit had to pay a total \$14.50 (about \$200 today) in fines and costs.—September 20, 1919, *Harrisburg Patriot*.

- When Camden High School defeated the DHS boys' basketball team 46-28, 1,200 fans **jammed the Downingtown Opera House** (*later the Roosevelt Theatre*), that was the largest crowd to see a basketball game in the borough.—November 24, 1908, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- Downingtown was known as the “**New Bridgeton**” by people who had worked for the Cohansey Glass Works plant in Bridgeton, NJ, which had closed, and now were employed at Cohansey's plant on Chestnut Street in Downingtown. One person claimed that at least one-third of glass workers at the Downingtown plant were former Bridgetonians.—March 10, 1908, *Bridgeton Evening News*.

- The man who had broken into the **Griffith and Wollerton Store** on East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, in the early morning hours, was captured by a dozen neighborhood residents. They were awakened when the burglar smashed the front window to gain entry to the store. Since he couldn't escape via the rear of the store, the burglar then raced out the front door, into the arms of the posse of neighborhood men, several of whom were armed with pistols. Those packing heat, including a borough physician, started firing their weapons from all sides. Miraculously, no one was wounded or killed. —October 3, 1909, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- Mary Walker, of Downingtown, and her bridesmaids were all ready for her late afternoon wedding at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, which was filled with family and friends. The appointed hour, 4 PM, came and passed, but the husband-to-be, George Coughlin, of Philadelphia, didn't show up. Rev. James O'Reilly, pastor of St. Joseph's, and the congregation waited until after 5 PM, but **Coughlin never showed up**.—May 1, 1900, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- When the Harrisburg's Central High School girls' basketball team came to Downingtown and was defeated by the DHS quintet of girl cagers, the visitors alleged they suffered more than a lost basketball game. One Central player allegedly was **forced to drop out** of the game, “after being knocked down four times in succession by a Downingtown girl.” And almost all of the Central girls were “bruised and cut.” Worse yet, claimed a Harrisburg source, the game was played on an old theatre (*the Downingtown Opera House*) floor, which was considerably lower at one end than the other.—February 23, 1914, *Harrisburg Patriot*.

## Local man was model for Remington's statue, 'The Cowboy'



Jim Sundman is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the bronze statue in the photo above as “The Cowboy,” by legendary American sculptor Frederic Remington (1861-1909). Charlie Trego of Downingtown posed on site for the statue, which was sculpted in 1908. The statue—12 feet high and nearly 11-feet wide—is located on Kelly Drive in Fairmont Park in Philadelphia.

Trego (1856-1925) owned two farms in East Brandywine, where the livestock and some of the show's cast (including Annie Oakley) connected with “Buffalo Bill” Cody's Wild West Show (1883-1913) spent the winter months, after each touring season had ended. Trego had befriended Cody when he left Chester County and worked as a cowboy out west as a young man, according to a two-part series, published in the *East Branch Citizen* in 1977. The series was based on interviews of Charles Hayes, Trego's step-grandson who lived on Race Street in Downingtown, where Trego and his wife, Carrie Ash Hayes Trego, spent their late years.

But Trego became more than Cody's “best and most trusted friend” when he was hired as an advance agent for the Wild West Show, which toured all over Europe as well as the United States. In addition to arranging for the transportation of the show's 200 cast members, 97 Native Americans, 18 buffalo, 181 horses, 10 elk, 4 donkeys, 5 longhorns, 2 deer, 10 mules, and the Deadwood Concord stagecoach that crossed the Atlantic on several ships, the job also included traveling to the next city where the show was to be put on, to make arrangements for the performers' and livestock's food and lodging. The show included trick riders, sharpshooters, stampeding herds and Indian “savages.” The cast also included Buck Taylor, the first “King of the Cowboys,” who settled in the Lyndell area with his family after the show went out of business. Trego and his wife also helped found the town of Cody, WY, at Cody's request.



# What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from December 1980 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*.

- Despite some parents' threats to sue the school district, the Downingtown School Board voted not to provide **noontime school bus service for kindergarten students** who attended half-day sessions.
- **Chemical Leaman Tank Lines** moved its headquarters from East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown to a five-story building in Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Exton. The trucking firm had 77 terminals, and was the largest tank line in the U.S.
  - Recent **property transfers** included: 25 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$79,225; 461 East Radnor Court, Uwchlan, \$79,900; 458 West Prospect Ave., Downingtown, \$53,060; 110 Tradition Lane, East Brandywine, \$69,900; 131 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$73,000; 1645 Exeter Circle, West Bradford, \$51,780; 301 Edgemont Ave., Caln, \$52,700.
  - Coach Bob Boyer's **boys' basketball squad** rallied in the second half, to defeat Great Valley 67-56. Art Harlow, 26 points and 15 rebounds, and Mark Redfern, 15 points and 12 rebounds, paced the Whippets' efforts. The **DHS girls' basketball team** garnered its first victory by beating O.J. Roberts 41-31. The Whippets leading scorers were Beth Beebe and Becky Connelly, who each tallied nine points. The **DHS varsity wrestling squad** won the PBM Rotary Tourney, which attracted eight teams. Individual titles were won by Sean O'Donnell, John Lucerne, Tom Urban and Glenn Koser. **DHS football players** named to the all-Ches-Mont team were Bruce Tiller, Doug Hamilton, Teddy Robinson and Chet Eagles.
  - **Tom Brookover**, whose family had been involved in Downingtown's paperboard industry for 77 years, retired from Sonoco Products Co., formerly Downingtown Paper Co., after working there for 42 years.
  - **Girl Scouts** in the Downingtown Service Unit baked and donated 250 one-pound coffee tins full of cookies to patients at Embreeville State Hospital in West Bradford. Each of the tins was decorated by individual scouts, and they were judged for their designs by Hilda Rath and Mary Mahan. Winners in the most original category were Kristen Staley, Karla Mixon, Rosemary Moffit, Melanie Kefer and Cathy Pfeiffer.
  - Members of **Cub Pack 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, who earned badges included Mark Ferris, Greg Morris, Alan Cockerham, David Hunt, Chris Tyson, Eddie Schroeder, Richard Wagner, Jeff Zeiders, Larry Bronson, Robbie Fuchs, Jeff Hines, Richard Huffman and Jamie Mendenhall.
  - **Ebenezer Baptist Church** announced plans to build a new church on Wallace Avenue in East Caln.

## Here's how to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on:

[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

## Group Photo of the Week



First graders during the 1971-72 school year at Beaver Creek School in Downingtown were, left to right: first row, Scott Plank, Mark Keen, teacher Martha Waring, principal Richard Byerly, Michael McShane, Sherry Burns; second row, Ann Marie Coates, Brad Novak, Scott Fennelly, Casey Jamieson; third row, Lucy Toto, Jeffrey Hook, Jamie Geschwindt, Krista Lang, fourth row, Kathy Ross, Gary Ware, Mindy Titus, Jane Coy, Mario Stanford, Denise Luminella; fifth row, Jeffrey Shuhan, Rita Filoromo, Michael Eppolito, Johnna Warihay, Joey Rainey. The photo and names were provided by Joanne Heckman, former secretary at the school.

## Three Restaurant Raffle winners

Val DiLuigi, Tom Lee, Jr and Mary Lou Starner were the three winners in the Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle. Each of them won \$50 gift certificates to be used at three restaurants. Downingtown area restaurants that participated in the raffle were: Downingtown Country Club, Pomodoro, St. Anthony's, Georgio's, Thorndale Craft House, Milito's, Station Tap/Bottle House, Beaver Creek Tavern and Thorndale Inn.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

**SELL**

**PEPPERIDGE FARM**

**BREAD**

**To Chester County Grocers**

Local stores will want Pepperidge Farm Bread when the new Bakery opens in Downingtown next month. Man with truck needed to deliver to Grocers in Downingtown, West Chester, Coatesville.

**Apply Now To — Mr. Davis**

**Phone Downingtown 1090**

This ad was originally published in the April 21, 1949 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

### **Holiday closures**

Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, will be closed on Christmas, Sunday, December 25 and on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1.

# **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

## ***Madame Curie***

Ann Atkins, author, historian, educator, will present Part 2 of her program on Madame Curie when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 17 at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome and the meetings free to all.

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# Happy New Year!



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Vol. 7, No. 51

December 29, 2016

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## News about Downingtown area found in *Phila. Inquirer*

Noted below are excerpts about the Downingtown area, retrieved from articles published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*:

- A **tornado** struck Downingtown “with astonishing swiftness” in 1921. It blew down several frame houses and sheds, as if they were constructed of cardboard. Among the dozen people injured were three female residents and a two-year-old boy who were hospitalized, in critical condition. Severe property damage also included scores of utility poles, the Swan Hotel’s porch and the roof of the Frank Miller Co. Office. *Philadelphia Inquirer, March 10, 1921*
- The **Woman’s Christian Temperance Union** in Lionville had rented the barroom of the Lionville Hotel, which had not had a tavern license for several years, and used that space for its meetings. *Philadelphia Inquirer, December 21, 1894*
- An effort to prohibit part of the **Friends Meeting House in Lionville** from being used by the Uwchlan School Board for public school purposes was overruled in 1904 by the Court of Chester County. *Philadelphia Inquirer, August 25, 1904*
- Plans for the **Downingtown Opera House** (later known as the Roosevelt Theatre) on Brandywine Avenue were drawn up by a Philadelphia architect in 1902. However, the new Opera House was put up for sale in 1913. Interested parties were directed to contact Penrose Moore. *Philadelphia Inquirer, November 12, 1902 and April 27, 1913*
- The newly chartered **Downingtown Iron Works** was expected to begin producing structural and boiler iron on April 1, 1913. Earlier plans to introduce manufacturing firms in the borough had been opposed because “there would be too much noise and bustle, and the splendor of the landscape and serenity of the lives of anti-progressives would be disturbed.” *Philadelphia Inquirer, February 23, 1913*
- Several prominent Chester County farmers—including Bayard Conard and Horace Feters, both of Upper Uwchlan—organized the Pottstown and West Chester Improvement Co. in 1903. They proposed that a **trolley line**, which went through Whitford, Lionville and Ludwigs Corner, should be built. *Philadelphia Inquirer, October 22, 1903*
- Lewis Green of Lionville was charged in 1921 with attempting to **steal a kiss** from a neighbor, Mrs. Frank Cain, who was “22 years old and pretty.” Green, “also a young person and good-looking,” had made attempts on several occasions to steal a kiss” from Mrs. Cain, but she had repelled him. However, when he “grasped her by the arm and threatened to kill her if she did not yield,” she filed charges against Green. *Philadelphia Inquirer, September 24, 1921*
- Following an **engagement that lasted more than 40 years**, Hannah Carpenter, of Marshallton, finally married Thomas Cope, an East Bradford farmer. The groom was about 70 years old, and the bride was several years his junior. The wedding had been deferred years ago because of the failing health of the bride’s mother, who had died several months ago. *Philadelphia Inquirer, June 26 1900.*

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Vintage Ad of the Week

**BONUS COUPON**

NATIONALLY ADVERTISED

**GAS**

**5** gal **\$1**<sup>10</sup>

Coupon Valid  
Thursday, Feb. 20 Only  
(One Coupon Per Car)  
**GAS ISLAND**

**CLIP THIS COUPON**

**CLIP THIS COUPON**

**DOWNTOWN MERCHANDISE MART  
AND FARMERS MARKET**

**JUST EAST OF DOWNTOWN ON ROUTE 30**

This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* in 1964.



# What was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the latter part of November 1964:

- The Downingtown Savings and Loan Association announced that it would purchase the **Swan Hotel** property from Gene DiSantis, after the borough landmark is demolished in the spring of 1965. A committee comprised of Ray Sheeler, Edwin Baldwin, Elmer Matthews, Robert Piersol and Ellen Ann Roberts had been investigating a possible new location for the local financial institution for about 18 months.
- West Bradford residents essentially told members of the township planning commission they wanted “**to keep a few cows and bushes**” in the township, according to results of a preliminary, long-range survey conducted by a Philadelphia consulting firm. The consultants also noted that limitations imposed by transportation, water and sewerage factors “almost ruled out” heavy industry in the township.
- The highlight of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas light decorations** in the business district was the addition of a 10-foot square chandelier, which was suspended from a 30-foot tall utility pole in the borough’s center square.
- Patrol leaders of a new **Girl Scout troop in Eagle**, which met at Windsor Baptist Church, included Bonnie MacDougal, Jennie Werner, Margi Moore, and Judy Dewees. Brenda Hilton was the scribe, and Debbie Frank was treasurer. And girls who flew up from Brownies were Linda Dewees, Karen Gottier, Jean Simpson, Connie Robinson, Linda Garvine, Luanne Lyons, Kathy Hurst and Martha Sorenson.
- **Cub Pack 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, was also newly chartered. George Hinkley was cubmaster, and Robert Sheeler was assistant cubmaster. Den mothers included Helen Brown, Lena Hinkley, Annie Steigher, Dorothy Swisher, Katie Umberger and Edith Walton.
- Mrs. John Piersol was elected president of the **East Brandywine Fire Co. Auxiliary**. Other officers were Mrs. Edgar Pierce, vice president; Mrs. Robert McCarty, recording secretary; Helen Laird, secretary; Mrs. Jay Lammey, treasurer; and Mrs. Hannah Harner, chaplain.
- Dorothy Collins, Robin Fowler, Dorothea Myers and Sheryl Klewer were invested into **Junior Girl Scout Troop 148 in Marshallton**. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Richard Bedsworth, Mrs. Vernon Harper and Mrs. Robert Myers.
- **Marshallton School** students, who were instrumental students of Miss Josephine Volpe, included William Keeler, Tony Amoriello, Cathy Busby, Jeffrey Sharp, James McGeehan, David Christy, Barbara Griggs, Marybeth Grigson and Raymond Hagele.
- The Chester County Chapter of the DAR placed a brass plaque near the front door of the **Uwchlan Friends Meeting** in Lionville. The historical marker noted that the Meeting House had been used as a military hospital during the American Revolutionary War.

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# It's the Minquas Fire Company



Gregg Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Minquas Fire Co., when it was on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. As Bob Lee informed us, the scaffolding on the right side of the firehouse probably was used to construct a tower where wet fire hoses were hung to dry.

And according to Charles Pennypacker's 1909 "History of Downingtown," the Minquas Fire Co., was incorporated in 1906. The firehouse was dedicated as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Downingtown's incorporation as a borough in 1909. At that time, there were 280 members. We were unable to find any information about Downingtown's Brandywine Band. The photo, provided by Mike Miller of the Minquas Fire Co., was taken by William South, legendary Downingtown photographer. To discover more about South, check out:

[www.downingtowntoreahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2011%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntoreahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2011%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

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