



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 1

January 7, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

News items originally published 36 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from local papers which were published in January of 1980:

- The **Downingtown School Board** approved the construction of additions at West Bradford and Pickering Valley Elementary Schools. The \$650,000 addition at West Bradford consisted of six classrooms, to be completed by July 1. And the Pickering Valley addition

included eight classrooms, a gym, conference rooms, and boiler and mechanical rooms, which were projected to be completed in August and to cost \$1.2 million.

- Installed as township supervisors were Winfield (Pete) Burkey in **East Brandywine**, and Jonathan Wood in **West Bradford**. Pete Karahalis was a new councilman in **Downingtown**.

- Some 30 residents of **Wallace Township** presented a petition, bearing 158 signatures, to the supervisors, asserting their protests against the last-minute elimination of one police officer from the 1980 budget, reportedly due to financial constraints.

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Menna, Downingtown, won a trip to Las Vegas in a contest sponsored by **Palace Pizzeria**.

- Recent **property transfers** were: 2203 Cranberry Lane, West Bradford, \$74,880; 433 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$104,825; 38 Cambridge Court, East Brandywine, \$46,900; 361 Mary Street, Downingtown, \$40,900; 3520 Norwood Avenue, Caln, \$30,000; 11 Fox Chase Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$85,500; 501 Clover Mill Road, West Whiteland, \$46,251.

- After they completed their social studies unit on Ancient Egypt, fourth graders at **Uwchlan Hills School** had a King Tut party. The participants included Kristine Dickinson, Amy Kockler, Tony Caggiano, Chris Gramca and Shannon Meadows.

- The **DHS girls' basketball team** won its holiday tournament for the first time since 1975, by beating Chichester 54-37 and defeating Conestoga 54-44. Tina Arcaro, Jeanine Cheek and Lisa Diehl were named to the all-tournament team.

- While plowing snow in a PennDOT truck in the Romansville area, three Downingtown residents—Ray Shea and Bruce and Steve Brown—contacted Jeff Young, a member of the West Bradford Fire Co., and reported a fire at the old barn that housed **Christopher's Restaurant** on Strasburg Road. The building was destroyed by the fire.

- Members of the **DHS indoor track squad** who set new school records at a meet at Lehigh University included: Matt Mingione, 1,000-yard race; Shawn Urbine, two mile race; and the mile relay team composed of Tom Mento, Dave Domblesky, Phil Grant and Scott Nichols.

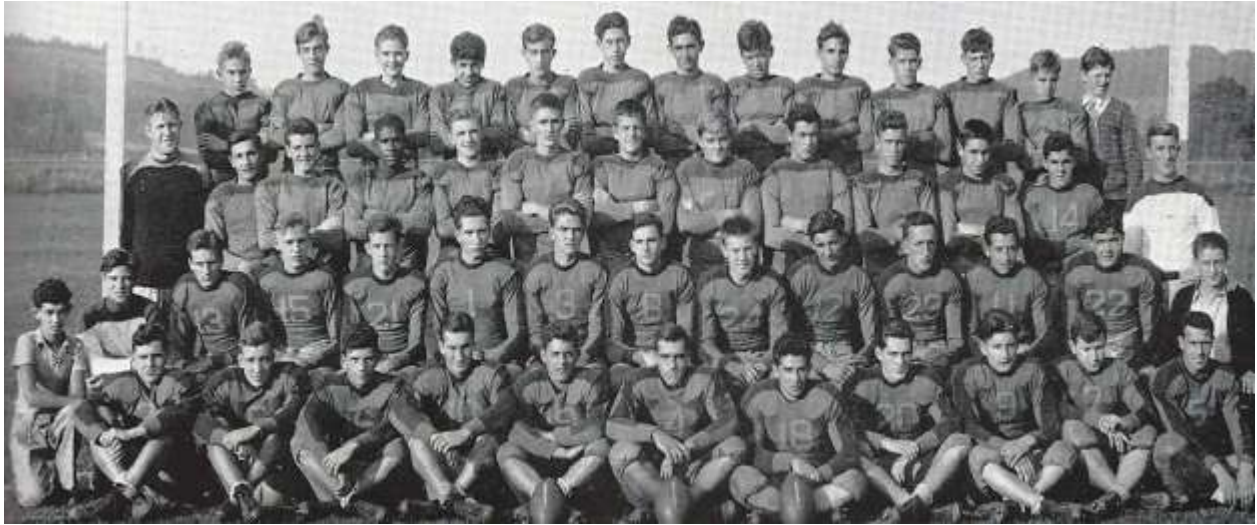
- Downingtown councilman Jim McGowan, who also was president of the **Downingtown Historical Society** and a member of the borough's **Historical Commission**, said the borough should kick in \$7,500 toward a matching share, to help pay for the writing of an updated borough history. The matching funds were required for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The estimated cost of doing research for the project and writing the book was \$28,000; printing and distribution costs would be extra.

- **DHS wrestlers** Glenn Koser and Duane Krapf were individual champs in the Conestoga Christmas Tournament. Whippets who were second place finishers were Keith Grant, Mark Mathis and Tom Urban.

- New line officers of the **Downingtown Fire Department** were: Minquas Fire Co.—Mike Davis assistant chief; Jim McGowan, captain; Vince Panetti, first lieutenant; Dave DiLuigi, second lieutenant; Rick Evoli, third lieutenant; and Mike Miller, chief engineer. The Alert Fire Co. line officers included: Tom Lee, assistant chief; Richard Keers, captain; Dave Capuito, first lieutenant; Brian Rambo, second lieutenant; Phil Burns, third lieutenant; and Jerry Keen, chief engineer.

- Although the **DHS boys' basketball squad** put on a dismal showing at its Christmas Tournament, the Whippets bounced back with a school-record 102-81 win over West Chester East. Bob Boyer's boys connected on 62 percent of its field goal attempts. Scoring in double figures were: Bob Melvin, 22 points; Brent Thompson, 21; Lee Holley, 19; Art Harlow, 14; and Mark Redfern, 12.

Group photo of the week:



This is a photo of the DHS football squad, which won the Chester County championship in 1938. According to that school year's Cuckoo, the title of the DHS yearbook until 1955, none of the student-managers were identified with the photo, and we were only capable of identifying one, Woody Sbei, who is pictured in the front row, at the far left. The team's players and coaches in the photo were, left to right: front row, C. Menas, F. Brook, J. Travaglini, J. Miller, J. Girafalco, J. Donofrio, L. Capriotti, F. Jameson, J. Cozzone, A. Burkhardt, A. Sciarretta; second row, assistant coach Lewis Laird, P. Gillespie, J. Lafiato, R. Hashinger, J. Raysor, R. Worrall, N. Lowry, V. Osborne, R. Williams, J. Mattioni, J. Ayers, A. Canestra, T. Peazzoni; and unknown; third row, P. Talierco, H. Frain, C. Wilkerson, H. Wonderland, F. Wilson, E. Mendenhall, W. Snyder, H. Baen, C. Daylor, G. Hilton, J. Gazzo, head coach Francis Tweed; fourth row, F. Pollock, A. Taraschi, E. Stoudt, A. Del Paggio, A. Taraschi, E. Clarke, A. DiChristifaro, A. DeBerardinis, R. Graveno, C. Wilson, E. Murray, E. Burkey and unknown.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

It's on Marshall Road in Glenmoore



Bonnie Radford is a truly perceptive scholar because she correctly identified the house in the photo above. Built in 1741 by William Ferguson, the property on Marshall Road in Wallace Township includes a farmhouse and tenant houses. Edward Hunter, purchased the farm in 1827. He is notable was one of the founders of the Mormon Church of the Latter Day Saints. The area surrounding the farm has long been referred to by locals as Mormon Hollow. It was owned for many years by Albert and Barbara Greenfield. Their residence was converted in 1957, from a granary and a carriage house. The property was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1980. (For more info on the site see: www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H001547_01H.pdf).

What locals were talking about 91 years ago

The news items noted below were published in *The Archive* during the summer of 1925.

- There were 37 graduating seniors in the 43rd **commencement at DHS**. Ruth Darlington Essick was the salutatorian and Alice Campbell was the valedictorian.
- Installation of a concrete surface on the Lincoln Highway (Route 30), **between Downingtown and Exton** was to begin in August. Motorists had to use the **newly paved Lionville Road** (Route 113) to travel between Exton and the borough until the two-month re-surfacing of Route 30 was completed.
- Each night of the **Alert Fire Company's** carnival in July began with a parade by that evening's featured entertainment. The Alert firemen sported their new dress uniforms. Music was provided by a different band each night. There also were vaudeville acts and a minstrel put on by members of the POSA, whose faces were done over with burned cork. Another attraction was the raffle for a Shetland pony. After all the expenses were paid, the Alerts netted \$3,000 from the extravaganza.

Downingtown area happenings in 1955

Noted below are snippets of information published in *The Archive* 61 years ago:

- Employees who received service pins at the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.**'s annual banquet included: Norman Woodward, 25 years; Maurice Yohn, Arthur Glauner, Francis Stinson and Enright Ellis, 20 years; and Jack Farrell, 15 years.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 181** who toured the Royersford tannery were Helen Burkhart, Patricia Daller, Beatrice Fernando, Jane Moore, Mary Jane Sabellico, Harriet Seibert, Frances Scarfino, Jean Shisler and Sandra Hadfield.
- Members of the **DHS boys' basketball team** included Sam Pierce, Johnny Chilla, Norris Miller, Lloyd Price, Jack Skiles, John Bousum, Harry Watson, Clyde Thomas and George Forbes.
- Cubs from **Pack 2** who earned Wolf badges were Charles Yamshak, Ronald Renshaw, Charles Backenstose, Joseph Merkt, Stephen Everhart and Stephen Charles.
- Officers of the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** were Gilbert Houck, president; Marvin Furlong, vice president; Ernest Phillips, treasurer; John Shrader, secretary; Elwood Earnshaw, assistant secretary; Russell Harrington, fire chief; and Frank Miller and Frank Kerstetter, assistant chiefs.
- Brownies invested into **Troop 88** were Frances Baldwin, Deborah Brown, Priscilla Brown, Donna Hilton, Sheila Loomis, Beverly Mitchell, Emily McIlvaine, Kathie Neff and Vickie Thompson.
- Wanda Radcliffe and Philomena DiBerardinis were student directors of the **DHS Christmas program**. Members of the cast included Pat Hilton, Phoebe Nelson, Peggy McCausland, Tom Brookover, Paul Fidler, Esther Zittle and Kathy D'Attilio.
- The Downingtown **A&P store** was selling sirloin steaks for 79 cents per pound.
- Frank Marcocci and Herman Detterline each received a \$1,000 check from the **Downingtown Paper Co.** for their suggestions on how to save money.

Making history today:

DHS West Band won first place at TaxSlayer Bowl



The DHS West Marching Band won first place in the field competition for Class AAA high schools at the Taxslayer Bowl in Jacksonville, FL, last weekend. It also was cited as having the best drum major and best percussion, and being the best overall band.

Vintage ad of the week:

Citizens! Citizens! Citizens!
Great Annual Fair
AT
St. Mary's Church
Ship Road and Lincoln Highway
(NEAR EXTON)
Sat. Aternoon & Eve., Aug. 16, 1924

BOXING EXHIBITION !
Bud Cristiano vs. Al. Gordon
Admission Free

CAFETERIA SUPPER
Admission—Adults, 50 Cts.; Children, 35 Cts.
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES BAND
(Thirty Pieces)
O! Philadelphia, Will Supply the Music !

This ad was published in the August 14, 1924 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*. St. Mary's Chapel, dedicated in 1873, was the sole Catholic church in the Exton area until Sts. Philip and James Parish was established across Route 30 in 1959. During the chapel's early years, priests would travel by train, from St. Joseph's Church in Downingtown to Exton, to say Mass, and then were transported from the train to the chapel by horse and wagon. After Mass, the priest would enjoy breakfast at some parishioner's table, until it was time for him to take the train back to Downingtown, according to the St. Mary's Chapel website.

And since boxing was a wildly popular sport in the 1920s and 1930s, Catholic parishes in the Delaware Valley often had well-known pro boxers put on an exhibition at their annual fairs and picnics to boost attendance by non-parishioners. Both fighters at St. Mary's fair were part of the nation's largest stable of pro boxers at the time, which was managed by Max "Boo Boo" Hoff, Philadelphia's biggest bootlegger. Hoff often relaxed at his mansion near Lyndell. (Editor's note: We're looking for more info on Hoff. Please send it to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.)

Evening clip & paste session to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12

Our next evening clipping and pasting session will be held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 12, at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters in Ashbridge Square, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln.

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

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, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Interactive performance

Maureen Barry, storyteller and children's author will perform her original tale Miss Fairfield's Beauty Pageant at 1 PM on Saturday, January 16 at the Downingtown Library. Following the performance, there will be a book signing by the author. The children will participate in an interactive performance where they are reminded that they are unique in their own special way just like the chickens on Fairfield's Farm. Children of all ages are invited. To learn more about Maureen Barry and her books, visit her website www.maureenbarry.com. To register for this event, visit: www.downingtownlibrary.org and click on the Upcoming Programs tab.

Civilian Conservation Corps

Bob Ford, historian horticulturist, war memorabilia collector and sportsman, will present a program on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The meeting will be held at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. All meetings are free and open to the public.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Jan. 16, Feb. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet room for rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

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



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Vol. 7, No. 2

January 14, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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More items first published in January of 1980

Noted below are items retrieved from editions of the *East Branch Citizen*, published in the latter part of January 1980:

- The **Downingtown Area School District** and **Downingtown Borough Council** were both considering buying an office building, near Kerr Park, on Wallace Avenue, which was owned by **Chemical Leaman Tank Lines**. Chemical Leaman had recently signed an agreement to occupy a five-story building in Pickering Industrial Park in Uwchlan. *(Editor's note: the school district ultimately bought the building and used it as its main office for a couple of decades, until the district office was moved to Trestle Place in East Caln several years ago. In 2015, the building became the new home of the Downingtown Library.)*
- Borough Council backed off from the possibility of developing a **parking lot for 50-60 cars** on leased land near the Pennsylvania Railroad in the Johnsontown section of Downingtown. Although the lot could relieve parking congestion in the Johnsontown area, as well as other parts of the borough's west end, Council decided to shelve that proposal because a group of Johnsontown residents, "don't want a parking lot over there. They resent it," said Council president Vince DiEuliis. However, DiEuliis acknowledged, "I still think we're going to have to do something over there." Another option under consideration was using part of the 13-acre Johnsontown Playground site, which the borough only had to pay a \$1,800 transfer fee to acquire the property from Sonoco Products Co.
- The **Roger Hunt Mill** (also known as Pollock's Mill), on Race Street, off Manor Avenue in Downingtown, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the grist mill, which was built in 1739, other structures on the property also placed on the national register were: the two-story main house, the miller's house, a turn-of-the-20th-Century carriage house, and an 1850 tenant house. Jane Davidson, borough historian, noted that feed from the mill was not provided to soldiers during the Revolutionary War. But Revolutionary War soldiers were fed crops which had been milled at the Shelmire Mill, located where the McDonald's restaurant is now located on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough. However, soldiers who fought in the French and Indian War were fed staples processed at the Hunt Mill. To learn more about the mill property, see: www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H050987_01H.pdf.
- According to the Chester County Intermediate Unit's Statistical Brief of the county's schools, a comparison of budgeted expenditures per pupil in 1979-80 determined that the **Downingtown School District** ranked 10th among the 12 districts in the county. The county average was \$2,382 per student, while Downingtown planned to spend \$1,985 per pupil.
- PennDOT finally acknowledged to **Upper Uwchlan** supervisors that a hazardous situation existed on Route 100, between Byers Road and Little Conestoga Road in the township. The problem was created when Route 100 had been recently re-paved by the state at a higher elevation than before, without increasing the elevations of roads and driveways that connected with Route 100. However, PennDOT informed the supervisors that it didn't plan to make any adjustments in the affected area.
- Chester County's Parks and Recreation Commission announced that it was going to buy the historic **Springton Manor farm** in Wallace Township. The 260-acre property, which had recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, included a 25-room mansion. In recent years, the mansion had been recently leased to Vitae House, where recovering alcoholics were being rehabilitated, and the three-year lease would be transferred to the county.

- DHS students who were named to the **Regional District Band** were Tom Conway, oboe; Mark Daghir, baritone horn; and Sharon Nash, clarinet.

- Members of the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** elected the following line officers: Ron Rambo, chief; John Schmidt, first assistant chief; Jim Baker, second assistant chief; Dave Baldwin, captain; Scott Piersol, lieutenant; John Neff and Rich O'Neill, engineers; and Tucker Thomas, chief of fire police. Elected as corporate officers were John Piersol, president; Harold Thompson, vice president; John Neff, recording secretary; Lewis Laird, treasurer; Scott Piersol, membership secretary; and Walt Crandall, Tucker Thomas and Chester Smith, trustees.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70**, who advanced to the rank of tenderfoot, included: Barry Angeny, Jeff Bell, Drew Gardiner, Steve Hurly, Jason Jarvis and Raymond Raysor.

- Officers elected to lead the Sunday School at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Upper Uwchlan included: James Runyen, superintendent; Joe Cura, assistant superintendent; Gail Kuhlkin, secretary; David Supplee, treasurer; Mark Bechtel, assistant secretary-treasurer; Rita German, librarian; Sandi Contner, Jenny Peterson, Dianne Fitzmier and Stan Miller, pianists.

- Officers elected to lead the **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary** were Mary Jo Pacinelli, president; Sharon Seese, vice president; Mary Lynam, secretary; Emily Walton, financial secretary; and Doris Yocum, treasurer.

- Diane Kramer won the school-wide spelling bee at **East Ward School**, and Dayna Dunn was runner-up. Other finalists were Ken Burkey, Karen Brown, Joe Erhardt, Denise Hernandez, Steve Hurly, Christine Milward, Chris Petrangeli, Audra Riffey, Chris Ross and Kim Sigle.

- Dick Thatcher was elected president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Also elected were: Frank Brouse, first vice president; Bruce Breckas, second vice president; Albert Homan, secretary; David Kirkner, treasurer; Lewis Wilson, assistant treasurer; and directors Dr. Joseph McCahon, Leon Bixler, Bud Bruton, Bob Cropper and Bill Mason.

- Lew Wilson, who joined the **Downingtown Police Department** in 1948 and was chief for 11 years, retired. Lt. Vernon "Zeke" Osborne, was named acting chief.

- **Uwchlan Township's** Historical Commission was opposed to the Radnor Corp.'s (a division of the Sun Oil Co.) plans to build a shopping center at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113, because it would "adversely affect the Lionville Historic District."

- DHS seniors nominated to attend the nation's **four service academies** were: Scott Kohler, Air Force Academy; Eric Meyer, Annapolis; Kurt Thompson, West Point; and Bernard Dunham, Merchant Marine Academy.

- Corporate officers elected to lead the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Joel Gramling, president; Ed Milham, vice president; Cindy Gilbert, recording secretary; Dan Lyons, financial secretary; Harry Ruth, treasurer; Carl Ruth, trustee; and Jim Ferrante, membership secretary. Elected as line officers were Richard Ruth, chief; Robert Holmes and Rick Gilbert, assistant chiefs; Carl Ruth and Chester Hershey, captains; Jim Ferrante and Bill Trego, lieutenants; Mike Mihalo, mask instructor; Harold Trego, chief engineer; and Fred Donaghy, assistant engineer.

- Tom Perdue was elected president of the **West Bradford Fire Co.** Other corporate officers were Larry Amoriello, vice president; Kenny Buckwalter, secretary; Bob Adams, treasurer; Bob Allison, financial secretary; and David Oles, member-at-large. Line officers included Jack Hines, chief; Bob Allison, first assistant chief; Dennis Riggins, second assistant chief; Mern Bedsworth, chief of fire police; and Joe Solecki, rescue captain.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 449 Lionville Road, Uwchlan, \$75,000; 114 Hilltop Road, East Brandywine, \$107,200; 3 Marshall Drive, Caln, \$59,900; 1113 New Hampshire Road, West Bradford, \$49,240; and 128 Brandywine Ave., Downingtown, \$43,000.

- Winners of the Pinewood Derby, sponsored by **Cub Pack 23**, were Mitchell Kerns, Dennis Giancola, Jeff Zeiders and Bruce Bredickas.
- The **Uwchlan Ambulance Corps** elected the following officers: Bob Karr, president; Doug Whipple, vice president; Mary Ellen Morrissey, secretary; Joan Pladek, treasurer; Judith Whipple, financial secretary; John Carbutt, Mike Barbieri and Calvin Wilhelm, trustees; and Stephen Thomas, operations chief.

Group photo of the week:



Cubs from Pack 23, Downingtown, and their parents came to Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, to see a visual presentation of historic sites in the Downingtown area, presented by Historical Society board member Phil Dague.

Local news items first published in 1943

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in 1943:

- The **Boys' Knitting Club**, comprised of seventh and eighth grade boys at Downingtown Junior High, completed two afghans, which were sent to military hospitals.
- Theresa Sciarretta was the May Queen in the May Procession at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**. Girls who were attendants in the procession included Delores Sciarretta, Jean Esworthy, Antoinette Petrella, Irma Del Paggio, Theresa Mascherino, Sarah Jane Doran, Connie DiSilvestro, Amelie Panetti, Helen Rodri, Theresa DiBerardinis, Ada Celii and Mary DiPietro.

- Since “actions of certain groups of young boys have long passed the nuisance stage,” Downingtown’s Borough Council was considering a **10 PM curfew** for youngsters under the age of 17, unless they were accompanied by a parent or another responsible adult. However, the Downingtown Rotary and Lions Clubs were unanimously opposed to the proposal. Rev. Willis Nichols, pastor of D-town Meth for seven years, said borough youngsters were “better behaved,” and in less need of any official restrictions than any other town where he had served. However, Father Francis Fox of St. Joseph’s supported the proposal. But Council decided not to adopt a curfew ordinance.

- Downingtown’s Charles F. Moran Post participated in a campaign by American Legion posts throughout Pennsylvania to raise \$100,000 in order to **buy 40 million cigarettes** for military personnel serving overseas and on ships at sea.

- A meeting of the Downingtown **plane spotters** was held at West Ward School. Rev. Rankin Stewart, chaplain of the local American Legion Post, and an active spotter in Glen Moore, offered the Invocation. Leaders of the group were Paul Dague, chief spotter; William Wharry, assistant chief; and Paul Martin, Leroy Helms, Mrs. Paul Dague and Harrison Durant. It was noted that only the names of active spotters would be included on the WW II Honor Roll, displayed in Miller Brothers store on East Lancaster Avenue.

- Among the 90 students who **graduated from DHS** were four boys already serving in the military. During the 1942-43 school year, pre-induction courses offered at the high school included: refresher math, aeronautics, fundamentals of shop, fundamentals of machines and electricity, blueprint reading, and machine shop. And although the size of senior classes at DHS had been nearly 100 students in recent years, there were only 68 seniors enrolled at DHS for the 1943-44 school year.

- The Rotary Club decided to sponsor **Boy Scout Troop 2**, the second oldest troop in Chester County.

- The **ration book** of a borough resident was suspended for 90 days after he had been cited for reckless driving and misuse of gasoline. And borough cops were checking up on motorists “suspected of pleasure driving.”

- Downingtown and Exton area residents couldn’t have **telephone service** installed at their homes because the Bell Telephone Co. system’s capacity had been reached. New installations were limited to telephones “required for direct defense or for public health, welfare or security, as defined by the (federal) War Production Board.”

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, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Vintage ad of the week:

ABBOT'S
Milk and Cream Emporium
Leave Your Order with us for Fresh Milk.
Eggs, Butter and Dairy Products
CREAM TO BE A SPECIALTY
Give it a trial at 25 cents a quart.
ABBOT'S DAIRY
West Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, Pa.
BELL PHONE 150 W

This ad was originally published in the June 24, 1911 edition of *The Archive*. Does anyone know anything about this business, which we usually connect with Philadelphia? Please send your response to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

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- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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It's Hopewell United Methodist Church in East Brandywine



Becky Corbin is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as Hopewell United Methodist Church, on Hopewell Road in East Brandywine Township. The church shown above was built in 1913, after its 1867 predecessor was razed. An education building was constructed in 1959, and a new sanctuary was added in 1990.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Interactive performance

Maureen Barry, storyteller and children's author will perform her original tale Miss Fairfield's Beauty Pageant at 1 PM on Saturday, January 16 at the Downingtown Library. Following the performance, there will be a book signing by the author. The children will participate in an interactive performance where they are reminded that they are unique in their own special way just like the chickens on Fairfield's Farm. Children of all ages are invited. To learn more about Maureen Barry and her books, visit her website www.maureenbarry.com. To register for this event, visit: www.downingtownlibrary.org and click on the Upcoming Programs tab.

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Blood drive

The Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 26 in the Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up to make a donation, please use the link on the borough's website - www.downingtown.org.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

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Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

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

Vol. 7, No. 3

January 21, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

News items first published in January of 1963

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers, which were published in the early part of January 1963:

- The **Upper Uwchlan Farmers Club** was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding, when the first meeting was held at the home of Horace Fetters on December 16, 1913.
- Warren Strawsnyder was elected president of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce**. Also elected were Chandler Cushman, first vice president; Rogers Bender, second

vice president; and Charles Thompson, treasurer. New directors were Calvin Mingione, Roland Moore, Dick Baker, Joseph Mento and Charles Gerbron.

- Plans to build a **34-unit apartment house** at West Lancaster and Gabel Avenues in Downingtown were opposed, due to potential density issues, by several residents of nearby homes, and the borough planning commission, which had recommended that the apartment house should be limited to 24 units.

- Featured roles in the **DHS Senior Class** production of “The Bachelor,” were played by Mary Ellen Crosby, Diane Gindin, Ralph Kurash, June Williamson and Kenny Matthewson.

- Elected as officers of the **Uwchlan Township Civic Association** were: Robert Sommer, president; Edwin Van Deusen, vice president; David Smith, secretary; John Watson, treasurer; Samuel Shaw, sergeant-at-arms; and Charles Martin, director. The association sold Christmas trees at the township buildings, and 20% of the proceeds were donated to the Lionville Fire Co. and the balance would be used to pay for the “Lionville” signs installed at the ends of the village.

- Girls invested into **Downingtown Brownie Troop 131** included: Deborah Ann Jones, Mary Ann Hildebeitel, Melanie Lacey, Sherry Lee Andress, Janice Wasmuth and Connie Williams. And members of **Brownie Troop 69, East Brandywine**, who received membership stars, were Linda Stillwell, Sandra Fry, Connie Matthews, Cindy Baker, Barbara Miller, Sue Nailor, Anne Johnson, Debbie Mertz, Melinda King, Robin Radcliff, Patsy Baldwin, Paula Raysor and Cherylen Nellius.

- DHS tackle Rich DiEugenio was named to the first team offense of the **All-Ches-Mont League**, selected by the conference’s coaches. DHS halfback Oscar Asparagus was named to both the second team offense and defense.

- Newly elected leaders of the Lutheran Church Women at **St. Paul’s Lutheran in Lionville** were Mrs. Roy Gulliford, president; Mrs. Matthew Nowakowski, vice president; Mrs. William Isinger, secretary; Edith Oberholser, treasurer.

- The **Whippet wrestling team** opened its season with a 41-11 win over Unionville. Leroy Cox, 138 pounds; Art Reyling, 145; and Bob Carl, 154; registered pins in less than two minutes in each of their matches.

- Members of Glen Moore Methodist Church, who reorganized **Boy Scout Troop 79**, included William Funk, Thomas Miller, Edward Moore, John Shrader and Rev. F.R. Landis.

- The Super Grocery in the **Downingtown Farmers Market** in East Caln was selling 2-pound cans of Chase & Sanborn coffee for \$1.15 and 2-pound boxes of Aunt Jemima pancake mix for 29 cents.

- Students, who participated in a presentation of “Thanksgiving Story” at **Brandywine-Wallace School**, were: Sharon Smith, Peter Dougherty, Pamela Whiteman, Bradley Livezey, Darlene Reber, Paul Murphy, Susan Weaver, Paul Givler, Susan Wilson, Diane Yost, Michael Short, Karen Nelson, Robin Nellius, Terry Green, Peter Hickey and Marilyn Deck.

- The **DHS boys’ basketball team** suffered a 39-35 loss to Oxford, despite Bill Pollock’s 19 points. Three nights later, the Whippets bounced back to edge Octorara, 45-41.

- Glenn Wagner was re-elected president of the **Pickering-Brandywine Joint School Board**, and Edward McCausland was re-elected vice president. Presidents of other local school boards were Roger Ireby, Wallace Township; Carl Kopenhaver, Upper Uwchlan; and Nevin Myer, West Pikeland.

It's at 1326 West Strasburg Road in Marshallton



Not one soul recognized this house on the main drag (West Strasburg Road) of downtown Marshallton.

What area residents were talking about 68 years ago

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

- The **Downingtown Fire Department** sponsored the Chester County Firemen's annual parade, which attracted 30 fire companies, nine ladies auxiliaries, 12 bands and bugle corps and 55 pieces of equipment. All told, there were 3,000 participants in the two-hour parade. Parade divisions were headed by these Downingtown fire marshals: Walter Phillips, Martin Binder, John Myers, Walter Shaw and Paul Miller. The ceremonies included the burning of the mortgage of the \$50,000 Alert fire station, constructed in 1941, and the housing of the Alerts' new Seagraves 750-gallon pumper and the Minquas' new Autocar emergency truck.
- The **Downingtown Young Men's Association** sponsored the annual Middle Atlantic track and field meet, sanctioned by the American Athletic Union. It attracted nearly 300 contestants who competed in 26 events, and 3,000 spectators at the DHS Stadium. Among the runners who won trophies and medals were: Villanova's Browning Ross, Seton Hall's Frank Fox, and Penn State's Jim Gehrdes; each of whom won two events and set a new meet record.

- Instructors at the Vacation Bible School at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle included Mrs. Sterling Henley, Arlene and Mary Henley, Mrs. Conley Davis, Rachel Miller, Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Van Valkenberg and Ruth Pollock.
- Pupils at **Mount Airy School** in Uwchlan who made the honor roll were Virginia Scott, Ruth and Joseph Collins, John and Henry Hine, Judy Swarner, Janet Harple, James Linderman and Shirley Wenger.
- Local **Girl Scouts** who were the best cookie salespersons included Jean Brammer, 102 boxes; Fay Manzi, 77; Shirley Rowe, 68; and Annabelle Warnick, 66.
- Elected as officers of **Downingtown's Women of the Moose** were Marion Judd, senior regent; Anna Badum, junior regent; Mrs. Earl Lemon, chaplain; Mrs. William Algier, secretary; and Mrs. Carrie Francella, treasurer.
- Prizes were awarded, for their academic averages at **Lionville Elementary School** to: Wayne Pfeil, Karen Rickard, Margaret Detweiler, Samuel Matthews, Nicholas Spies, Joanne Rice, Schuyler Rennard and Dennis Ellmore.
- Elected to lead the **Downingtown American Legion Auxiliary** were Mrs. Paul McCombs, president; Mrs. Mark Bareford, first vice president; Mrs. Earl Shirk, second vice president; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Esther Williams, treasurer; Helen Gregory, historian; Mrs. Fred Brookover, chaplain; and Anna Dougherty, sergeant-s-arms.
- Eighth graders who had the highest average at **Indiantown School**, Glenmoore, were William Harrop and Kenneth Comstock, and the seventh graders with the best marks were Francis Canella and Jacqueline Markey.
- Leaders of Downingtown's **Alert Fire Co.** agreed to preserve the fire bell, which had been used at the company's first fire station on Stuart Avenue, which had been sold recently to the **Mason's Williamson Lodge**.
- **Faculty awards** were presented to these DHS seniors: Netha Beumer, English and science; William Chalfant, social studies; Duane Chesney, math; Betty Moore, language; Beverly Chandler, commercial; Charlotte Hannum, home economics; Frank Pomento, art; A. C. Hammons, agriculture; and Virginia Bare, music. Eighth graders Jane Kriebel and Ralph Paccinelli won the American Legion medal;

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

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Vintage ad of the week:

the
GRANDEST
OPENING...
a Community of fine Colonial Homes

Marchwood ... a departure from the ordinary! Here's the kind of living you've waited for ... on a 170-acre woodland setting: the perfect background for your home. You'll find breathtaking room outside ... large wooded lots with all improvements including public sewers and water plus sidewalks! 100' x 200' minimum lot size. You'll find room inside, too! Each home is designed for airy "clutter free" living with all modern conveniences, including GE Dishwasher, counter top range, Eye-Level Oven and Disposal.



RANCHER
3 Bedrooms, 1½ Baths,
2-Car Garage, Expand-
able Basement.
\$15,990
•
FHA Financing Available
•
Decorated by Dubrows
Designed by Silk Leaders
Lester H. Wachsmann, Architect



2-STORY
4-Bedroom, 1½ Baths,
Full Basement, Garage,
Large Recreation Room.
\$18,490



SPLIT-LEVEL
4 Bedrooms, 1½ Baths,
Family Room, Garage.
\$17,890

Marchwood
3 Furnished Samples Open 1-8 Daily, 1-6 Sat., 12-8 Sun.
KENT HOMES, INC., Builder CARNAIL & CO., Agent, LI 8-5838
NI 4-5721 Sample 363-9793

From
West Chester
North on
Route 100 to
Marchwood
north of
Exton.



This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on December 6, 1963

Group photo of the week:

Members of St. Joseph's Holy Name Society in 1920s



Members of the Holy Name Society at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown in the early 1920s were, left to right: front row, John Mahan, Joseph Francella, John Doyle, John Donnelly, Paul Snyder, Mr. Ciarlone, Anthony Donato; second row, John Sheehy, Charles Fennelly, Joseph McFadden, John Doran, Charles Furlong, Father Joseph Kelly, Frank Lenhardt, Henry Euler, William Williams, Mike Donofrio, Hugh Gormley, Alphonse Travaglini, William Mahan, Mike Sheehy, Simon McCarty; third row, Charles Ellis, Al Schneider, Paul Walker, Andrew Walker, James Fennelly, Eugene Bowman, John Manley, John Euler, Walter Snyder, John Cahill, Thomas Donnelly, Richard Cahill, James Dolan, Frank McCuen, George Fisher; fourth row, Thomas Bowman, Mr. Bray, Dick Bowman, Frank Clarke, Emil Ceulers, Charles Donato, Charles Cozzone, John Travaglini, James McMenniman, Thomas Dolan, Dominic Talucci, Richard Carroll, John Hanrahan and Robert Dougherty. Photo was originally published in the *History of St. Joseph Parish*, published in 2002.

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:



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Vol. 7, No. 4

January 28, 2016

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More items first published in December of 1963

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers, which were published in the latter part of December of 1963:

- About two-thirds of **East Caln Township**—including the Downingtown Motor Inn and Downingtown Farmers Market (the sites where the Brandywine Square and Ashbridge Square shopping centers on Route 30 are now located)—would soon be annexed by the **Borough of Downingtown**. Walter Leland, borough manager, revealed that information in a meeting with the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's board of directors. Petitions to annex over 400 acres of primarily commercial property in the township "are well on the road to being executed," said Leland. The impetus for the major merger, continued Leland, was the long-range plan to establish an authority to handle water and sewer challenges in Downingtown and its surrounding townships.
- Participants in a Christmas Story presentation by the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were: John Miller, William Miles, Regina Dorsey, Roma Snyder, Pat Zinn, Gary and Adrian Keenan, Harold Earnshaw, Carl Harple, Charles and Philip Williams, and Richard Munson.
- Installed as officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the East Brandywine Fire Co.** were Dorothy Piersol, president; Peg Pierce, vice president; Beverly McCarty, recording secretary; Helen Laird, financial secretary; Ruth Lammey, treasurer; and Hannah Harner, chaplain.
- Members of the Junior High group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** who participated in a skit included: Sandy McCombs, Susan Reed, Jennifer Bruton, Susan Myers, Ginny Potter, Prissy Echols, James Curry and Debbie Beam.
- Soloists who sang with the mixed chorus at the **DHS Christmas Concert** were Kenneth Matthews, Jill King, James Helms, Nancy Martin and Ronnie Pierce. Patricia Whitely, Sherry Massimini, Gina Myers and Warren Emery were the accompanists.
- Elected as officers of the Women's Association at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glenmoore, were Mrs. Roy Cummins, vice president; Mrs. John Black, program chairman; Mrs. Gilbert Cornog, fellowship chairman; and Mrs. Edwin Kalemjian, treasurer.
- The tour of five local homes, sponsored by the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club**, attracted 150 people. Mrs. Lawrence Jamieson was the tour chairman. The tour began with a dessert and bazaar at the clubhouse.
- Members of **Cub Pack 152, Marshallton**, who earned advancements were Steve Verngren, Jeff and Rick Andrien, and Mike Sellers.
- Rev. Harry Sink, pastor of **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, accepted a call from a church in Oakland, NJ. While he served for four years at the Guthriesville church, there were 51 baptisms and 74 new members, which was one-third of its active membership.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** defeated Owen J. Roberts 53-46 because the Whippets made 17 of 25 foul shots. In its next game, however, Downingtown succumbed to hot-shooting Pottstown by a 77-44 score. And DHS lost to St. Pius X 61-50 in the first round of the Royersford Jaycees Holiday Tournament. Mike Pollock, 19 points, and Clark Bartell, 12, led the Whippet scoring.
- Frank Bates was elected treasurer of the **West Bradford Fire Co.**, replacing G. L. Moore, whose resignation was accepted with regrets. And Ron Trimble, of the recreation committee reported that the Ladies Auxiliary had donated a TV set to the fire company.

Group Photo of the Week:



The photo above was retrieved from the October 1951 edition of the Downingtown Paper Company's employee magazine, *The DOPACO Diary*. Pictured left to right were the guys who worked in the company's pipe shop back then: front row, Al Chandler, Walter Lair, Danny Massimini and Gabe Pomento; back row, Benny Forte, Nate Sheehan, John Massimini, Jim Anderson and Joe McGrogan. (*Editor's note: The only copies of the DOPACO Diary we have are from the early 1950s. So, if there are copies taking up space at your house, we'd love to add them to our archival collection.*)

What area residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local papers in the early part of July 1948:

- **Downingtown's VFW Post and Lions Club** donated a total of \$280 so four local boys and girls could go to Camp Chesapeake for two weeks. The four boys were Charles Brown, Paul Brinton, James Evans and Robert Miller. (The article didn't include the girls' names).
- The second annual **Good Neighbor Day**, sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association, was held in Kerr Park. Chairman Ernie Smedley said the entertainment included magician Harry Brown, a Downingtown boy, and Ore Marino's newly formed band, The Syncopators. The day's events started with a track meet, and the semi-finals of a tennis tournament. Afternoon events included games for kids under 13, child calling and rolling pin throwing contests for women, plus a pie and cake baking competition.
- The **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** sponsored a square dance at the West Ward School. Francis Brown was the caller. The committee responsible for the fundraiser included Mrs. Thomas Brookover, Mrs. Thomas Lee, Mrs. Horace Miller Jr. and Marilou Page.

- Creston Shoemaker was elected president of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce**. Also elected were Everett Hoopes, first vice president; Edward Towson, second vice president; Herbert Kreider, secretary; Earl Entrekin, treasurer; and directors Charles Emery, Dr. Harlan Sharp, Lewis Snyder and Ray Sheeler.

- Many people came to the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** carnival on the night they could watch the Joe Louis vs. Jersey Joe Walcott heavyweight boxing match on the company's TV set. The Downingtown Stump Jumpers were the entertainers on Saturday night. *(Editor's note: Anyone know anything about that group)?*

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were: William Allen, president; Vinton Smedley, first vice president; Morris Jackson, second vice president; Morse Garwood, third vice president; John Rodgers, secretary; Joseph Matthewson, treasurer; James Fennelly, lion tamer; Dr. William Reed, tail twister; and directors William Bixler, Frank Bishop, Russell Curry and Aubrey Goudie.

- Newly elected officers of the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown included: Marion Judd, senior regent; Anna Badum, junior regent; Mary Algiers, recorder; Carrie Francella, treasurer; and Lucy Lemon, chaplain.

- Members of the **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club**, who planned a coon dog field trial, held at Hickory Park in Upper Uwchlan, were Daniel Rothas, Clyde and Elmer Esworthy, James Summers and Joseph Swarner.

- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 10 in Marshallton**, who spent several days camping in a cabin near Nottingham, included JoAnn LeFevre, Edith Smyers, Evelyn Bunting, Edith Albertson, Shirley Lamborn, Verna and Sylvia Hall, Mary Esther Yarnall, Jeanie Thomson, Mary Brackbill, Dolores Lambert, June Ann Ellingsworth, Glenna Hurley, Mary and Dorothy Ford, Dorothy Kelsall and Jean Woodward.

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Our Wish List works: Shelley Smyth Francies gave us a copy of Downingtown Junior High's 1977 Lancer yearbook. And thanks to another donor, we were able to buy a new portable projection screen.

Vintage Ad of the Week:



Christmas Day Dinner
... it's a real treat at

We serve you with generous portions of delicious Christmas foods, expertly prepared. Quiet, attractive atmosphere.

Dinners from 3.95 — Children 2.75

Serving from 12 Noon to 9:30 P.M.
for Reservations Call 269-1000

Welcome 1964 at the 1896 House

Special Full-Course Dinner
featuring Roast Prime Ribs of Beef AuJus
or Charcoal Broiled Sirloin Steak
Party Hats, Noise Makers—Orchestra 10 P.M.-2 A.M.
\$15 per couple ● Make Your Reservations NOW
269-1000

Note: For those planning to attend private parties New Year's Eve, The 1896 House will serve the regular dinner from 5 to 9:30 P.M. at the usual prices. It's a delightful way to start the evening's festivities, and the lady of the house will love you for it.

Gala New Year's Eve DINNER DANCE
Ring out the old, ring in the new at "Party Headquarters" this New Year's Eve—the famed 1896 House at the Downingtown Motor Inn.
The 1896 House at the Downingtown Motor Inn
Located on Route 30 just E. of Downingtown



This ad was first published in the December 20, 1963 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

It's at 140 Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Twp.



Once again, not one soul tried to identify our mystery photo. It's located at 140 Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Township. The house was built in 1808.

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Free Ads for Non-Profits

Madam Marie Curie

Ann Atkins, historian and author, will present a program on Madame Marie Curie (1867-1934) at a meeting of the West Caln Historical Society at 7 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are always open to the public and are free.

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Vol. 7, No. 5

February 4, 2016

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What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the East Branch Citizen in early February 1980:

- Plans to develop a historic district ordinance in **Uwchlan Township** were pursued after residents and supervisors were treated to some lessons on local history, when Sue Brody, chairman of the township's Historical Commission, and Eleanor Morris, president of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, provided a preview of the commission's historical study on the village of Lionville. Morris noted that most of the old sites in the village had been placed on the state register in 1975, to prevent a proposed cloverleaf at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113 being constructed. "So there is no question that the district will go up to the National Register," to preserve the village's historical and architectural integrity, claimed Morris. A major impetus for establishing a historic district was the possible development of the 12-acres of land in the village area, which was owned by the Radnor Corp. (a subsidiary of the Sun Oil Co.), and was a potential site for a shopping center .

- Although the **West Bradford historic committee's** proposal to establish an historic district in Marshallton succumbed in 1979 to overwhelming pressure from village residents, the committee was now considering a different approach. Instead of establishing a historic district under a more restrictive state law, the township committee was leaning toward adopting the strategy recently employed by the borough of Downingtown, which used the National Historic District model. That model, explained Downingtown's historian, Jane Davidson, placed fewer restrictions on property owners.

- **Springton Manor Farm in Wallace Township**, which was on the National Register of Historic Places, finally became part of the Chester County park system. Eleanor Grier Bartol, who had lived on the farm, had wanted to donate the 260-acre property to either Chester County or Wallace, so it would be an educational site where children could learn about a working farm. But neither government body initially accepted the offer. So Bartol decided to turn the farm over to Forward Lands Inc., a Delaware-based non-profit organization, which was committed to the preservation of open space. Over a 10-years, Forward Lands made considerable improvements to buildings on the farm property After she died in 1969, Chester County agreed to buy the farm from Forward Lands, for \$75,000.

- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** celebrated its 75th anniversary. The club's notable projects and involvement in the community over the years included development of Kerr Park and the revival of Good Neighbor Day on the Fourth of July in Kerr Park.

- After the **DHS boys' basketball team** turned over the ball 25 times and lost to Phoenixville by a 76-48 margin, the Whippets got back on track by beating Great Valley 51-41 and Henderson 49-48. Mark Redfern, 19 points, and Bob Melvin, 13, led Downingtown's offense against the Patriots. Tom Anderson tallied 12 points and pulled down seven rebounds, to help Coach Bob Boyer's squad edge the Warriors.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were John Francella, president; Eloise McFalls, first vice president; John Riccardo, second vice president; and Agnes DiEuliis. Secretary-treasurer. Directors included Brian Formica, John Trego, Richard Francis, Everett Lang, Larry Persick, Jennie Freas and Clair Koser.

- The **St. James Place apartments** for seniors in Downingtown were dedicated. Almost all 39 apartments in the two-story building, built along East Pennsylvania Avenue on land formerly

owned by St. James Episcopal Church, were already occupied. Subsidized by the federal government, residents didn't pay more than 25 percent of their income for their apartment rent.

- Pins recorded by Bob Webb, 119 pounds, and Glenn Koser, 126, led the **DHS wrestling team** to a 47-5 victory over O.J. Roberts, and six Whippets got pins in a 61-0 shutout over Pottsgrove.

- The **DHS girls' basketball squad** outscored Phoenixville 36-30 in the second half, but that rally wasn't strong enough to overcome their first half deficit and the Whippets lost 61-43. However, Downingtown bounced back, by beating Great Valley 63-36 and Henderson 68-41. Top scorers in the Great Valley fray were Jeanine Cheek, 17, Tina Arcaro, 12, and Doreen Warihay, 10. The Whippets front court of Arcaro, 24; Lisa Diehl, 14; and Cheek, 12; led the Downingtown offense against Henderson.

- **DHS singers** who made the Southeastern District Chorus included: Leslie Semple, Mary Calkins, Brian Robison, Kurt Thompson, Georgia Newlin, Linda Piccone, Rob McClarin, Carol Styer, Bill Whisler, Karen Lammey, Jim Wychgel, Tom Wallace, Sue Grant, Al Madrigale, Mark Kottmeyer, Bill Kennedy and Brian Stahl.

Clip/Paste sessions slated next week

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, February 7 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, February 8. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.

- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.

- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

open for Inspection

SATURDAY, NOV. 23 — SUNDAY, NOV. 24
·NOON 'TIL 6 P.M.

ROCK RAYMOND

COUNTRY ESTATES

RANCHERS \$15,900 — TWO STORYS \$16,900



- Large Living Room with Paneled Walls.
- 3 and 4 Bedrooms.
- Modern Kitchen with Royal Chef Range and Eye Level Oven.
- Formica Counter Tops by "Cosco."
- Tile Baths ● Full Basement
- Garage
- Oil Fired Baseboard Hot Water Heat.
- Completely Painted with Cook & Dunn Quality Paints.
- Gorgeous Rolling Acre with Trees.

DIRECTIONS: W. on Rt. 30 to By-pass 30 to Rt. 322. N. on Rt. 322 to Buck Rd. Right on Buck Rd. to Rock Raymond Rd. Left to Sample.

**CHESTERBROOK
CONSTRUCTION CO.**
363-7541

BRANDYWINE REALTY
269-3700

This ad appeared in the November 22, 1963 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

News items originally published 68 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of July 1948:

- Members of Downingtown's **Alert Fire Co.** voted to have the bell removed from the tower of the former fire hall on Stuart Avenue in the borough, and store it in the current fire station on Pennsylvania Avenue, until a decision on what to do with bell was reached. *Editor's note: Anyone know what happened to that bell?*
- **Thirty-seven persons were injured** at the Pennsylvania Railroad station in Downingtown when a slow moving freight train backed into the rear of a passenger train, which had stopped for loading and discharging passengers. Three mail clerks on the passenger train were the most seriously injured and were transported by ambulance to Chester County Hospital. Others were treated at the accident scene by local physicians, Dr. M. W. Mercer and Dr. William Riley. The bodies of two U.S. servicemen, killed in World War II, being transported in flag-draped caskets, had to be transferred to a passenger train going west later on the night of the accident.
- **Glen Moore Methodist Church** celebrated the 75th anniversary of the laying its cornerstone for a new church. In attendance were two people who had witnessed the cornerstone ceremony in 1873: James Heck and Harry Snyder.
- Prize winners at the veterans' fair in Downingtown, co-sponsored by the local **American Legion and VFW Posts**, were: Cordelia Collins, a TV set; Charles Staub, a power lawn mower; Thomas Boyd, a motorbike; and Barbara Smith, a movie camera and projector.
- The former **Fetters-White School in Uwchlan Township** was purchased for \$5,000 by Harry Taylor, a West Chester real estate broker, at an auction. For more info and photos of the school, access: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/Mar%2021%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.
- A bronze plaque in memory of Downingtown's **J. Gibson McIlvain** was dedicated by Owen J. Roberts, former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court at Camp Horseshoe. McIlvain had been an advocate of the Boy Scout movement in Chester County for many years, and was one of the founders of Camp Horseshoe.
- Morris Steifel, owner of the **Roosevelt movie theatre** on Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown, and two of his brothers, had purchased the vacant lot at 38-40 West Lancaster Avenue in the borough, with plans to build a theatre on the site.
- Downingtown's **American Legion Post** decided to sponsor a Senior Boy Scout Troop. The post's housing project for vets, on William Street in the west end of the borough, was underway. One of the 49 two-story, bungalow-style units, constructed by Leon Gable, was ready for occupancy and eight of them were under roof.
- Elected as officers at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were: Harry Wickersham, president; George Lied, vice president; Mrs. Harry Cann, treasurer; Mrs. Harold Robinson, secretary; and Roland Bean, financial secretary. Also, members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe, included: Robin Nelson, Richard Brooks, Dale Ellingsworth, Vernon Fellenbaum, Robert Sellers, Philip Mastrippolito, Harold Trimble, Malcolm Preston, Robert McCue, Freddie Martin and Robert Bunting Jr. And members of Marshallton's **Girl Scout Troop 10**, who participated in a day camp at West Chester's Hoopes Park, included Mary and Esther Yarnall, Glenna Hurley, Evelyn Bunting and Mary Brackbill.

Group photo of the week:



These somber-faced members of the Downingtown Junior High School's jayvee girls basketball team during the 1976-77 season were, left to right: first row, Tisha Eagles, Chris Lammey, Ave Gaffney, Rhonda Kaminski, Nici D'Antonio; second row, Ramona Foster, Robin Chilla, Melanie Shucker, Donna Mull, Barbara Battle; third row, Alisha Stanley, Becky Connelly, Terri Mento, Sandy Johnson, Glenda Fink, coach

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

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

It was the toll house on Route 30, just east of Downingtown



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to recognize what the toll station on Route 30, just east of Downingtown's border, looked like in 1900. Originally, the road was known as the Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike. It was the nation's first turnpike of importance, and because the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania could not afford to pay for its construction, it was privately built by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road Company. Credited as the country's first engineered road, its ground was broken in 1792. Although the road suffered from lack of use and maintenance, it later saw recovery with the invention of the automobile. In 1913, the turnpike became part of the transcontinental Lincoln Highway, and tolls continued to be collected until 1917, when the State Highway Department bought it for \$165,000, equal to \$3 million today. In 1926, it was designated as part of U.S. Route 30 along with the rest of the original United States Numbered Highways.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Madam Marie Curie

Ann Atkins, historian and author, will present a program on Madame Marie Curie (1867-1934) at a meeting of the West Caln Historical Society at 7 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are always open to the public and are free.

Blood Drive

The Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 26 in the Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up to make a donation, please use the link on the borough's website - www.downingtown.org.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Farmers Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Feb. 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet room for rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

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



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 6

February 11, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in February 1980:

- The **Downingtown Area School District's** board debated how Martin Luther King's birthday should be observed. James Watson, board representative for West Bradford, read a letter

from Rev. William Levering of the Downingtown Ministerium, which proposed that Dr. King's birthday should be a school holiday. Watson also noted that King's birthday was a holiday in the West Chester and Coatesville School Districts. However, Sam Crawford, board representative for the west end of Downingtown, suggested that the school district should observe the birthday by special programs that would make students more aware of King's philosophy and accomplishments, instead of an opportunity for students to "be out running on the street." Ultimately, the board unanimously voted to make King's birthday a school holiday.

- **Downingtown's Council** honored the 28 volunteers, who spent hundreds of hours working to complete a historic survey of some 1,000 borough properties, which was critical to many of those buildings being added to the National Register of Historic Places. Also cited were the 11 DHS students in Tom Holder's architectural drafting class, who did line drawings of the facades of some of the borough's historic structures.

- **East Brandywine** supervisors were astounded when they learned that 196 youngsters, between the ages of 7 and 12, had registered to play in the township's new baseball program.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 1209 New Hampshire Lane, West Bradford, \$47,650; 11 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$66,250; 430 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$94,809; 324 Shoen Road, West Whiteland, \$72,000; 301 Jackson Avenue, Downingtown, \$45,000; 155 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$36,900; 1801 Whitford Hills Road, East Caln, \$73,000; 109 Evergreen Drive, East Brandywine, \$86,900.

- The **Copetown Bicycle & Hobby Store** opened for business at 210 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.

- Sue Brody, chairman of the **Uwchlan Township Historical Commission**, said many of Lionville's first residents, in the early 18th Century, were difficult to trace because they often lived on land in the township for years, without ever staking a legal claim on the property. Brody discovered that information while preparing an application for the Lionville Historic District to be named to the National Register of Historic Places. Virtually all of the buildings in the village were built between 1820 and 1870.

- Area residents had been receiving dialysis treatments at the **Kidney Center of Chester County**, located on Route 30 in East Caln where the Brandywine Square Shopping center is now located, since September 1979.

- Glenn Koser, Mark Mathis and Duane Krapf won individual championships, as the **DHS wrestling team** captured the Section IV, Class AAA crown.

- Former DHS standout Dan Bradlee won the adult **foul shooting competition**, sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Joint Recreation Board. Betty Connelly won the senior high division contest, Will Johnson took the junior high crown, and Steve McGowan earned the elementary level competition.

- Five members of the **DHS girls' indoor track squad** set new school records at a meet at Widener College. They included: Renee Gallman, Jane Dickson, Judy O'Connell and Barrie Benjamin, who combined for a 1:37.8 in the four-lap relay, and Ave Gaffney ran a 7:32 one-mile race.

It's the old Buck School in East Brandywine



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the above photo as the former Buck School in East Brandywine Township. It's not known exactly when the school was built, but according to Barbara Paul's "A History of East Brandywine Township," there was a school (probably a log building) on Buck Road in 1861. And in 1880, the stone, one-story school shown above was constructed. "The school took its name from its proximity to the Buck Tavern, the well-known coach stop on the Horseshoe Pike" (now Route 322). Later, the tavern "became somewhat unrespectable and the association between school and tavern was not to the liking of the (East Brandywine) school board." So, the school's name was changed to Harmony.

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News items first published 52 years ago

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

- **Joseph Newlin**, Downingtown police chief, received Distinguished Civic Award at the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** 19th annual banquet, held at the Downingtown Motor Inn. Newlin had served on the borough police force for 34 years, as of 1964.
- Elected to lead the Ladies Auxiliary of the **Minquas Fire Co.** were Mrs. Daniel Zittle, president; Mrs. Walter Nichols, vice president; Blanche Summers, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Norris, secretary; Mrs. Sidney Unruh, financial secretary; Mrs. Edna Pendergrast, chaplain; and trustees Marie Hamilton and Mrs. Maynard Collier.
- David Sharp and Ralph Erskine Jr., who filled the unexpired term of Paul Pennypacker, were appointed to **Uwchlan Township's** Planning Commission.
- William Smith was elected chairman of the **West Bradford Township** board of supervisors at the annual reorganization meeting. Other supervisors holding office on the board were Edwin Hill, vice chairman; and Horace Rodgers, secretary-treasurer. Harry Cattell was a newly elected supervisor, and John Griggs was re-appointed to the Planning Commission.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** gained a 32-31 lead over Phoenixville in the opening minutes of the second half, but the Phantoms subsequently scored 29 points in third quarter, and the Whippets suffered a 73-50 loss. Mike Pollock led the Downingtown offense with 13 points, and Oscar Asparagus tallied 11. Downingtown also succumbed to a late rally by Spring-Ford, and the Rams edged the Whippets in a 50-48 heart-breaker. With 14 points, Pollock was the only Whippet in double figures.
- Liz Von Hacht, who scored 13 points, led the Whippette offense, as the **DHS girls' basketball squad** beat West Chester Henderson 35-31.

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- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
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- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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News retrieved from *The Archive* in the winter of 1955

- Although four Whippets scored in double figures, the **DHS boys' basketball squad** lost to West Chester 96-74. Downingtown's offensive leaders in the game were: Norris Miller, 20 points; John Bousum, 16; John Chilla, 14; and Lloyd Price, 11.
- Mrs. Robert Hadfield was elected president of the Couples Class at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, and Downingtown's Dr. Harlan Sharp was elected president of the **Chester County Medical Society**. Also, James Fennelly was named chairman of the **Polio Fund** for the Downingtown area.
- New members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Rick Gindin, Al Herman, Rev. Alfred Vail and Wilson Pollock.
- **Glen Moore Girl Scouts** who enjoyed a cold-weather hike included Peggy and Karen Funk, Joan Stevens, Peggy Jo and Marian Jones, Eileen Mercer, Anne Galt, Dolores Harple, Nancy Ortlip, Paula Shrader, Vonnie Hohl and Linda Hogan.

News found in *The Archive* in the autumn of 1943

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive in the fall months of 1943:

- There were 1,080 students enrolled in the **Downingtown School District**, including 263 who lived outside the borough and their tuition was paid by the 16 townships where they resided.
- **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, celebrated its 100th anniversary. Shortly after a small group held the first service in the home (487 E. Lancaster Ave.) of Andrew Wills in the autumn of 1842, the new congregation used the Masonic Hall (which was next to the church, and later was the parish rectory) for worship services. The cornerstone for the church was laid in June 1843, and the new church was dedicated on October 26 the same year. The church was enlarged in 1863, and a transept was added. After the borough passed an ordinance banning graveyards in Downingtown, the bodies buried behind the church were moved to the new Northwood Cemetery on Route 113.
- The first issue of a **new student newspaper**, *The Blue and Gold*, was published by DHS pupils in December of 1943. The staff included: Mary Jo Barrow, editor-in-chief; Elizabeth Bradley, junior editor; Dorothy Bunker, business manager; and Elvin Welch, art editor. The first edition had "A Salute to Our Boys in the Service" section, which included excerpts of correspondence from Joe Travaglini, Joe Colella, Franklin Dague, Paul Entrekin, Francis Fennelly, Harold Miller, Joe Crawford, Leta Tweed, Don Jameson and Bill Broschard. Other sections of the paper included news about the high school's Hostess Club, Hillbilly Band, and Swing Orchestra.
- A **Pigeon Racing Club** was formed in Downingtown. Charter officers were William Harrison, president; Richard Dague, vice president; Ross Dague, secretary; and Jack Law, treasurer. The club's race committee included Mark Dague, Gardner Kennan and Jack Fleck. Most of the members had registered their lofts with the government.
- Although the **Whippet football team** had garnered only two wins before the last game, DHS closed its 1943 season with a 26-0 victory over Pottstown. Downingtown's touchdowns were scored by Andy Ippolito, Chet Harple, Tony Mattioni and 250-pound tackle John McGowan, who lugged an intercepted pass 35 yards for the final TD. There was no traditional Thanksgiving Day game that year.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

A N N O U N C E M E N T

I WISH to express my Appreciation to the Public for their former patronage and wish to announce my returning after being away five (5) years. I have a Newly

Renovated Restaurant

With Additional Table Space -- Excellent Service -- Good Eats at All Times -- Extra-Large Home-Made Pies and the Same Desire to Serve the Public as Before.

Central Light Lunch

NICK ZAFERES, Prop.

Opp. Bank Corner

East Downingtown

We Will Be Open DAY and NIGHT After Feb. 15

We sell \$5.50 Worth of Milk Checks For \$5.00

This ad was published in the February 25, 1926 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Madam Marie Curie

Ann Atkins, historian and author, will present a program on Madame Marie Curie (1867-1934) at a meeting of the West Caln Historical Society at 7 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are always open to the public and are free.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

A meeting will be held at the East Brandywine Township municipal building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, at 7 PM on Thursday, Feb. 25, to outline plans for the exhibit of a 250-foot, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is coming to East Brandywine this summer. Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will host the replica memorial wall and accompanying mobile education center display, the only Chester County venue on a national tour. The exhibition will be available for viewing throughout the day and night from July 28 to Aug. 1 at East Brandywine Township Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road.

Blood Drive

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Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Farmers Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Feb. 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 7

February 18, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are more items originally published in local newspapers in January 1964:

- Downingtown Mayor Creston Shoemaker **vetoed an ordinance to fluoridate the borough's water supply**, after Borough Council had approved the bill by a 4-2 margin. Shoemaker characterized fluoride as a "poison."

- A Downingtown Joint High School Board member **severely criticized the preliminary plans and cost estimates** for a \$1.2 million addition to the high school. And the inclusion of a planetarium in the plans was “sharply rapped by the entire board.” Wallace Township’s Roger Irely took issue with many of the extras slated for the 23-classroom structure, including an “overly expensive” auxiliary gymnasium and an expanded cafeteria. However, school director Richard Franklin noted that the board had approved the plans, by a 25-8 margin, in December 1963.

- **Uwchlan’s supervisors** were assured by the Chester County Commissioners that the township would receive a \$4,000 county grant, to be used to pay for the \$5,050 installation of two overhead, ultrasonically-controlled traffic signals at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113. The intersection was characterized as the “Death Corner” because it was where three fatal accidents had occurred in the past year.

- William Wilmot, of the Minquas Fire Co., and John McAlpine, of the Alert Fire Co., were named Firemen of the Year at the **Downingtown Fire Department’s** annual banquet. It was the third time Wilmot received the award.

- Elected as officers of the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** were: Thomas Reber, fire chief; Edwin Evens, president; Ray MacDougal, vice president; Thomas Trego, secretary; Thomas Miller, recording secretary; William Payne, treasurer; John Trego, trustee; and Rev. Leonard Bjorkman, chaplain. The fire company had recently purchased a new truck—with a General Motors cab and a 750-gallon Hale pumper—which was assembled and built at the Hahn Co. in Hamburg. The company also bought a two-way radio.

- DHS seniors, who received a white sweater with a musical letter for participating in the **DHS marching and concert bands** for three years, were Susan Abel, James Helms, Mary Ellen Crosby, Mary Ann and Marlene Harple, Sherry Massimini, Kenneth Matthews, Michael Dorsey, Donald Myers, Ralph Carson, William Anderson, Barbara Yohn, John McGuckin and Judy Olson. And participants in the **Musical Review at the Junior High** included: piano soloists Alan Novak, Philip Hash, Michael Norris and Susan Myers; a flute trio comprised of Mary Ann Hipple, Nancy Gerbron and Lauren Tweed; a clarinet trio comprised of Will Marion, Donna Forrester and Terry Davis; and a trumpet quartet, which included David Corry, David Robbins, David Seal and Philip Barlow. And Downingtown’s version of Peter, Paul and Mary—Steve Hendry, Buddy Pearson and Cathy Rogers—sang “Where Have All the Flowers Gone.”

- After sponsoring a horse show for two years, the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** decided to discontinue the fundraiser. Named to Chamber committees were: Raymond Baugher, education; Ray Sheeler and Chandler Cushman, industrial; and Dick Baker, membership.

- Members of the **DHS jayvee field hockey team** who earned letters were: Lynne Dowlin, Martha and Miriam Alexander, Patricia and Sharon Fennelly, Robin Mattison, Carol Patrizio, Bonnie Ker, Eunice Boggs, Sandy Horsey and Doreen Davis. And members of Coach Bob Boyer’s **DHS cross-country team** who earned letters included: Lloyd Asparagus, Dave Downing, James Schofield, Robert Ferguson, Leslie Stine, John Caldwell and George Ciarlone.

- Elected to lead the **Downingtown Opti-Mrs. Club** were Mrs. Clifton Walton, president; Mrs. Donald Collier, vice president; Mrs. Clair Langham, secretary; and Mrs. Albert Burkhart, treasurer.

- Dave Williams tossed in 14 points, as **Beaver Creek Elementary School** defeated Church Farm School 36-19. However, Caln Elementary School’s 13-12 victory over **Beaver Creek School**, ending the Beavers’ 13-game winning streak in elementary school competition.

- DHS students who had featured roles in the Junior Class production of “**Connecticut Yankee**” included Kris Yeaworth, Sally Jo Pyle, Janet Strawsnyder, Edwin Conner, Linda Pyle, Robert Bruton, James Sanders, Gene Martin, William Uhler, Sally Campbell, Shirley Robinson, Ruth Travaglini, Sandra Irwin, Steve Meacham, Terry Knox, Steve Mascherino, Carol French and Margaret Woodland.

- Suzy Martin canned 10 points, as the **DHS girls’ basketball squad** defeated Great Valley 35-16. And Mike Pollock scored 16 points as the **DHS boys’ basketball team** upset Great Valley 53-45, in its Ches-Mont League second half opener.

Vintage ad of the Week

**F.H.A. . . . LOW DOWN PAYMENTS
AT**

Sunnybrook



OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN 1-6 P.M.
California Rancher — Large Foyer

Excellent Floor Plan **\$15,800**
Also Traditional Two-Story \$16,900

Borough Water & Sewer—All Improvements in Place
Just 1/4 mi. N. of Rt. 30 on Rt. 113 (Uwchlan Ave.)
in Suburban Downingtown—Open Sun. & Daily 1-6 P.M.

 **Cochrane
& Pasfield** **269-2323**
builders of American Homes

This ad appeared in the January 25, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

News originally published 68 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers published in August 1948:

- The **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission** announced that it would house engineering and drafting departments, while working on the Chester County section of the turnpike, in a Quonset hut-style office to be built on the property of James McGowan, at Green Street and Jefferson Avenue in the borough.
- **Enrollment** in Downingtown's secondary schools totaled 616, while 540 youngsters attended the elementary schools.
- Midshipman **Edwin Carpenter**, of Downingtown, was one of the Navy personnel from the cruiser USS Macon, who had an audience with Pope Pius XII at the Vatican.
- About 200 Downingtown boys travelled by bus to Philadelphia to see the Athletics play a baseball game at Shibe Park, as guests of the local **VFW Post**.
- Marshallton's **Bob Ludwick**, a pitcher for Nashua (NH) Dodgers, was married at a ceremony conducted the first and second games of a doubleheader in the minor league team's Holman Stadium. The bride was Dorothy Bickings of Embreeville.
- Nine-year-old Marcia Chambers, of Downingtown, won the "**jalopy**" (**better known as a soapbox derby**) race, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club. Chambers was the only girl who participated in the race; the other 19 were boys. There would have been 21 entrants, but Paul Detterline broke his left arm in a crackup while practicing on the race course on the downhill section of Chestnut Street in the borough. And the Lions Club was so confident that a boy would win, they had purchased a boy's bicycle, to be the first prize for the winning driver. Marcia said she preferred a boy's bike. Second prize, a radio, was won by Charles Love, and James DiSante won a camera for coming in third. A parade of the cars formed before the race at Kerr Park, and then travelled east on Lancaster Avenue and up Chestnut Street to the starting line. John Shoemaker won the best-appearing car, and Carl Klunder came in second.
- A **donkey baseball game**, between members of the Downingtown Lions Club and the local VFW Post, was played on the diamond behind the West Ward School on West Lancaster Avenue. The event also included a Lady Godiva contest, wherein three competitors mounted a donkey at first base while carrying a suitcase full of women's apparel. When they reached second base, they had to dismount and put on the ladies' clothing, including "unmentionables," and return to first base. The VFW's Gerald Whiteman won the competition.
- Prizes awarded at the **Veterans' Fair**, conducted on the Legionnaires' property at Pennsylvania and Wallace Avenues over three weekends in July by the local American Legion and VFW Posts, included a three-piece living room suite won by James Duca and a freezer won by Margaret Worth.
- Initiation ceremonies for members of **Girl Scout Troop 10** in Marshallton included the girls, wearing aprons and bandannas, to sweep all the pavements in the village, and then ask each household what "good deed" they could do. As a result, the girls mopped floors, washed windows, mowed lawns and ran errands.
- Fifteen youngsters had signed up for the **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club's** fishing contest, which was to end on September 1. So far, the biggest fish caught were a 33-inch eel caught in the Brandywine by Anthony Mento and a 16-inch sucker caught in Beaver Creek by Fred Bagshaw.

It's the first Alert Fire Co., on Downing Avenue



Donna Kneisly is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the original Alert Fire Co. station, located at 17 Downing Avenue in the borough. That fire house, dedicated in 1891, also was where Downingtown's Council conducted meetings for many years, until the Borough Hall was opened on Lancaster Avenue in 1926. After \$45,000 was spent to build the larger station at 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave. in 1941, and the old station was sold to the Downingtown Masonic Home Association for \$5,000, the original station on Downing Avenue was converted into an apartment house. The bell, shown in the photo above, now is located in front of the West Pennsylvania Avenue fire station. Sometime after the new station was constructed, the bell from the Downing Avenue fire house was sold to First Baptist Church in Downingtown. According to legend, however, the bell was soon returned to the fire company because it was "too loud."

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

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Group Photo of the Week:



Sixth graders who attended **St. Joseph's Catholic School** in Downingtown in 1967-68 included: top row: Cindy Chicovsky, John Driscoll, Mary Beth Dague, Robbie Harrison, Michelle Moschitta, Henry Cook; second row: Chuck Daylor, Steven Moran, Denise Mattioni, Jim Deputy, Patty Powell, Carlen Davis; third row: Kathleen Capriotti, Nick Chilla, Mary Sieracki, Maryann Beam, Unknown, Maureen Cain; fourth row: Joe Butler, Ann DiOttavio, Diane DiMartin, Brian Dougherty, Donna Valente, Janine Taylor, John Stamps, AnnMarie Viscichini, Kevin Dougherty, Gary DiBerardinis, Debbie Fedastian; fifth row: Judy Hawthorn, Webster Hilton, Gary Bogush, Regina DiAntonio, Janice Mattioni, MaryJo Panichelli, Sandy Abbott, John McNeill, Janet Gazzerro, Cynthia Madrigale, Robert Smith; sixth row: Sandy Ippolito, Mary Jessel, John Cooney, Agatha Formica, Joe Massucci, Donna Marcocci, Victor Taraschi, Joe Lang, Debbie Pacinelli. *In addition to Judy Hawthorn, who sent us the photo and provided many of the names, others who provided kids' identities were Kathy Capriotti, Donna Valente and Diane DiMartin.*

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

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Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Banquet room for rent

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 8

February 25, 2016

Where and What Is This?



Yes, it's difficult to decipher the lettering on the brick wall in the photo above, and don't be fooled if you do figure out the name of the business. Also, to be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar, the winner must provide the name of the business that occupies that building today. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are more items originally published in local newspapers in February 1964:

- Downingtown's Borough Council, including several councilmen, who assumed their newly elected posts in January 1964, failed to override Mayor Creston Shoemaker's veto of a proposal to **add fluoride to the town's public water system**. Shoemaker had vetoed Council's

4-2 vote in favor of the proposal in December 1963. It would have taken a 5-1 vote to override the veto. One of several councilmen who were installed in January 1964, was Tom Courtless, who claimed that fluoridation didn't make good sense, economically, because less than 4% of the 376,247,000 gallons of water processed through the borough's filtration system in 1963 was consumed by individual residents. Courtless also said the number of names on the petitions in support or opposed to the proposal were essentially equal, with 587 signatures in favor of the proposal and 578 signers against it.

- The **West Bradford School Board** decided that the 32-acre Edward Stouff property on Marshallton-Thorndale Road was the best site for a new elementary school in the township. However, there was concern about the need to spend \$24,000 to build a 4,000-foot-long sewer line to connect with a proposed sewage disposal plant.

- Members of the Luther League at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in Lionville, who enjoyed a bowling party at the Ingleside Bowling Alley in Thorndale, were Helen Bittmann, Thomas Isinger, Sheryl Hartman, Lois Dahlberg, Charles Martin, Samuel Acker, Douglas Wilt, Darlene Windle, Donna Zeltwanger, Carol Fowler and Millie Blake.

- Cubs in Downingtown's **Pack 2** who earned "Bob Cat" pins were Danny Katherina, Steve Miller, Bert Hough, Steve Best, Steve Singer, Clarence Miller, Blake Dornan, Joe Eppolito, Steve Winward and Al DiMatteo.

- Members of **Forks of Brandywine Presbyterian Church** in Glenmoore, who were ordained or elected, included: elders Edward Hitchcock and John Ferguson; and deacons Mrs. Scott Ferguson, Mrs. Walter Hadfield, George Miller, Joseph Stauffer, Miriam Wise and Charles Zeiders. William Swisher was elected as an elder, and Ralph Davidson, Staughton Erickson and Homer Stover were elected as trustees.

- **Bob Boyer**, who had lettered in baseball, basketball and soccer at West Chester State College, was named head coach of the DHS baseball team. Daryl French was appointed as coach of the jayvee baseball squad. Boyer succeeded **Charlie Forte**, who had been head baseball coach and an assistant football coach at Downingtown for many years.

- Elected as officers of **Wallace Township's Planning Commission** were: Norman Piersol, chairman; Carl Maenak, vice chairman; Mrs. John Frankenfield, secretary; Beatrice Howson, treasurer; and Mrs. Walter Ford, recording secretary.

- New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Frances Sosko, Mrs. William Steimer, Mrs. Stephen Casper, Mrs. Richard Nelms, Mrs. Harry Shreiner and Mrs. Richard Zubyk.

- Elected as officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were: George Ruark, president; Lewis Dewees, vice president; Warren Smith, secretary; Jonathan Windle, treasurer; Carl Ruth, membership secretary; Allen Woodward, trustee; and John Trego, fire chief. The company had responded to 79 fires in 1963.

- Linda Davis scored 11 points, as the **DHS girls' basketball team** edged Coatesville 25-21. But the Whippettes suffered their first league defeat, as they lost to Phoenixville 29-18.

- Coach Mel Brodsky's **DHS boys' basketball squad** didn't recover from a 27-18 deficit in the first half, and a 15-12 rally in the fourth quarter wasn't enough to beat O.J. Roberts, as Downingtown lost 59-54. In the next contest, DHS was routed by Pottstown, 82-36. And although the Whippets "looked terrific" in the first period, said Brodsky, they "collapsed" in the second quarter and ultimately were beaten 77-47 by Boyertown.

DHS Alumni Association names four to Hall of Fame

Four graduates will be installed into the Downingtown High School Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 132nd annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday night, April 16.

Those who will be installed, and their respective categories of achievement, are: Dr. Diane DiEuliis, Class of 1984, Science and Government; William "Grumpy" Jenkins, Class of 1949, Science and Engineering; Pamela Foy, Class of 1974, Science and Medical Research; and Wilson Pollock, Class of 58, Architecture.

Individual profiles on the new Hall of Fame honorees will be published in March editions of the Hist-O-Gram.

For more details on the banquet, and to make reservations, see:

www.downingtionalumni.org/banquet.html.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

1926 Sales
The Apex
In Cars and



Service 1932
OF VALUES
SERVICE

Nash Quality and Value will sell you — Our Expert Service and Square-dealing Policies will keep you sold. Satisfying You is the only thing that will Satisfy Us.

See the
New Nash
In Five Models
Come In Now and See Them



We Also Sell and Service
ATWATER KENT
— and —
R. C. A. RADIOS
GOODYEAR TIRES
ATLANTIC GAS
GENERAL REPAIRING
Official Inspection Station No. 5316

AN INSTITUTION

Keeping Pace with the needs of our Community and Keeping Faith with the People by selling Products of Known Value and Appreciation, by rendering a Super Service at Fair Prices and with Square Dealing.

Brandywine NASH Motor Co.

E. H. USHER Proprietor
206 East Lancaster Avenue :: :: Phone 393
DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

This ad was published in 1932 editions of *The Downingtown News*.

Local news items during the WW II era

Noted below are items originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* during the fall of 1943:

- Two alumni told DHS students of their **war experiences** at assemblies at the high school. Gerald Whiteman, Class of 1938, had been an electrician on a Navy hospital ship in the South Pacific for two years. And when the Japanese attacked the United States on Dec. 7, 1941, Whiteman was stationed on the only hospital ship at Pearl Harbor. The crew of that ship, *The Solace*, Whiteman said, saved the lives of many sailors who were victims of the surprise attack. Subsequently, that ship came to the rescue of American casualties in the battles of Santa Cruz, the Coral Sea and the Solomon Islands. While serving in the Pacific, Whiteman said he encountered several Downingtown boys, including: Bob Williams, Lester Snell, Lewis Capriotti, Albert DelPaggio, Robert Forrester, William Gerhart and Bill Broschard.

And at another assembly, Army Air Corps Technical Sergeant Maurice Gottier, Class of 1939, told the students about some of his experiences while flying on 40 bombing missions during the African campaign. One of them was when he had to be rescued from the sea, near enemy strongholds, by his comrades. Because of his bravery, the Upper Uwchlan native was chosen to speak at War Bond rallies in several cities in the South.

- Students at Downingtown's West Ward Elementary School collected more than **2,200 pounds of tin cans**, and Morris Steifel, owner of the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue gave movie passes to the 30 kids who collected the most cans. They also observed the December 7 attack at Pearl Harbor by buying \$431.95 worth of War Bonds and stamps.

- In addition to agriculture students' displays of livestock and farm products at the second annual DHS Farm Show, the event included a **Victory Garden** competition, which was open to all residents of the borough or surrounding townships. Each entry had at least five vegetables grown in local residents' Victory Gardens. Nearly 20 million Americans planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops during WW II.

- Although their season was over, members of the **DHS football team** were still operating under the guidance of Coach Vince Daher. Most of the players were members of the V Club, which Daher established so the Whippet gridders could contribute to the war effort by knitting woolen squares for blankets to be donated to military servicemen. And if a player failed to show up for a knitting session, he had to pay a fine, which was used to purchase more wool.

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Group Photo of the Week:



Players in this photo of the DHS girls' basketball team in 1923-24 season were: first row: Ann Yohn, Jane Downing, Lib Deets; second row, Helen Osborne, Dorothy Gatley; back row, Lib Supplee, Mary Chalfont (coach and English teacher), and Betty Bird.

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Ex-DHS basketball star named a “legend”

Tora Suber, DHS Class of 1993, will be installed next week in the Atlantic Coast Conference’s 12th annual class of Women’s Basketball Legends, as the University of Virginia’s honoree. Suber will be inducted on Saturday, March 5, as part of the 2016 ACC Women’s Basketball Tournament, held at the Greensboro (NC) Coliseum. Suber earned a degree in English Literature at Virginia.

She starred on Whippet girls’ basketball teams that won four District 1 titles and two state crowns in the early 1990s. Suber and teammate Tina Nicholson, DHS Class of 1992—who became a standout point guard at Penn State and a WBNA draftee—formed a dynamic duo during Coach Bob Schnure’s halcyon days at Downingtown.

Suber led the Cavaliers to three-straight ACC regular-season championships and back-to-back appearances in the NCAA’s Elite Eight. She finished her outstanding career as a Naismith Finalist and was named to the Basketball Weekly All-America first team and AP Honorable Mention All-American. She graduated as the all-time leader in 3-point field goals made (220) and still holds that record today. Suber was picked in the first round as the seventh pick overall of the 1997 WNBA draft by the Charlotte Sting. She played professionally for two seasons. Suber is employed by the New York City Department of Education.

It’s at 12 East Welsh Pool Road in Lionville



Not one soul correctly identified the house in the photo above, which was the “What and Where Is This?” picture in last week’s Hist-O-Gram. Built in 1929, the house is located at 12 East Welsh Pool Road in Lionville.

Brief but important

A bronze memorial plaque was dedicated at Glen Moore Methodist Church in November 1953. It included the names of 10 Civil War veterans who were buried in the church cemetery. They were: George W. Gates, Elias O. Griffith, George B. Guy, James Herrington, Benjamin G. Lewis, James G. Lyon, George O. Rice, Levi F. Snyder and John F. Syphard. The plaque was unveiled by Shirley Snyder, great granddaughter of Levi Snyder, and C. Rupert Davis, great grandson of Benjamin Lewis. Larue Williamson accepted the memorial for the church's trustees.

Remember when the Bell Telephone office was on Green Street in the borough, and an operator immediately said, "Number please," whenever you picked up your phone's receiver to make a call? Back in 1952, there were 13 switchboards in the phone company's local office. And 42 "girls" provided 24/7 service, according to an article in the Downingtown Paper Co. employee magazine, the DOPACO Diary. Mrs. Helen Campbell was the chief operator, and Grace Vernon was in charge of the evening shift, while Anna Dellett was the supervisory staff's desk clerk. On a typical day, the operators handled 9,000 calls, including 3,000 pay calls.

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Free Ads for Non-Profits

Afternoon Tea

Members of the United Methodist Women of Romansville United Methodist Church, 1859 Strasburg Road, will have an afternoon tea at the church from 2-4 PM on Saturday, February 27. In addition to freshly brewed tea, the menu will include homemade finger sandwiches, scones, lemon curd and fancy desserts. Tickets, which cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for women under 12, must be purchased in advance by calling 610- 486-6079 or 610-486-6741. For more details, see: www.romansville.org.

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History of Boyd's Corner

Richard (Dick) Dague, a historian and librarian, will talk about the History of Boyd's Corner (Sadsbury Twp.) and the Boyd Family, which settled in western Sadsbury Township in 1724. The first one was Rev. Adam Boyd, the first pastor of Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. The program, conducted by the West Caln Historical Society, will be offered at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 15 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. It will be free to all and all are welcome.

Italian Dinner

The Marshallton United Methodist Church Youth Group will host an Italian Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 12. There will be continuous seating. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children (5~12). A silent auction will be held during the dinner. Proceeds will go to assist the youth on their summer mission trips. Marshallton UMC is located at 1282 West Strasburg Road. For more information, contact the church at office@marshalltonchurch.org or (610) 696-5247.

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Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

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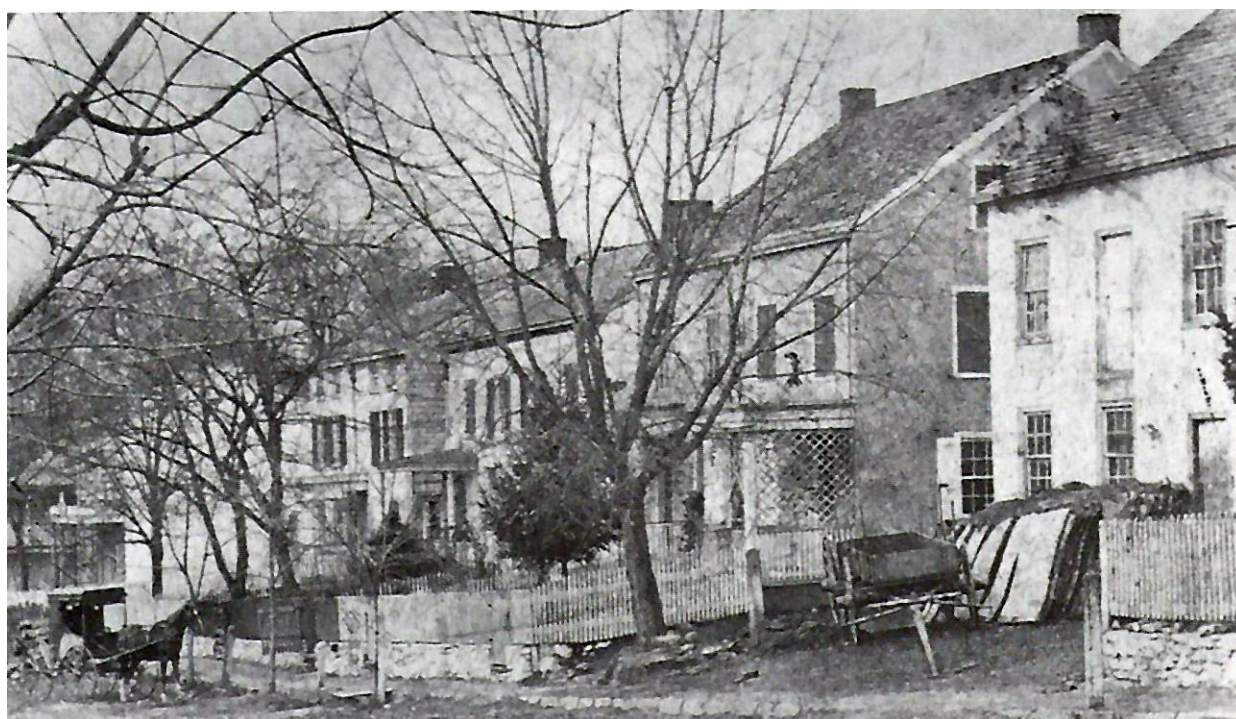
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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Vol. 7, No. 9

March 3, 2016

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What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news retrieved from early March 1980 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*:

- Lew Wilson, who retired as **Chief of the Downingtown Police Department** in 1980, recalled that his salary was \$2,400 a year when he joined the department in 1948. At that time, Downingtown was the sole municipal police force—four officers, plus Chief Joseph Newlin—that provided 24/7 police protection between Philadelphia and Lancaster. There was only one patrol car then, and there wasn't a mobile radio system in the vehicle. In fact, whenever a borough resident called the police about a problem during the evening or overnight shifts, when

no one was working inside the police headquarters in the municipal building at the time, the sole Downingtown cop on duty would learn about the problem when he drove that lone squad car past Borough Hall, because a light switched on automatically on the outside of the building when a phone call came in. And whenever the cop on patrol saw that light, he was supposed to pull into the station and called the Bell Telephone office on Green Street, where an operator would provide details about the reported problem to the police officer.

- Patrolman Stephen Plaugher discovered a fire at the Your Beauty Supply business while checking the doors of stores in the **Downing Center** shopping mall in the borough. That smoke quickly turned into a major blaze, which did \$200,000 damage to the beauty supply outlet and several neighboring stores.

- Re-appointed as fire police officers for the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Harry Ruth, John Vandenberg, Carl Ruth, Ric Gilbert, Edward Milham, Don Farrell, Michael Mihalo, Russell Windle and Ray Rennard.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 1647 Ithan Circle, West Bradford, \$58,770; 103 Oak Lane, West Whiteland, \$75,400; 506 Cobleskill Lane, Uwchlan, \$79,000; 204 Karen Drive, Downingtown, \$48,385; 14 South Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$95,500; 6 Ingleside Drive, Caln, \$50,300.

- Models at the **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary's** luncheon and fashion show included Blanche Dawson, Bessie Brown, Linda Broomell, Rose Bruno, Doris Fiore, Gertrude Woodward and Kathy Przychodzien. They wore outfits from Jennie Rae's Fashion Shop in Downingtown.

- Featured in the DHS production of the musical "**Annie Get Your Gun**" were Brian Robison, Bill Kennedy, Rick Betres, Rob McClarin, Carole Styer and Brian Stahl.

- Mr. and Mrs. John Talierco co-chaired the **Lionville Youth Association's** spring dance. Committee members included John Bright, Peggy Coldren, Stan Rolen, Joyce Champion and Rosemary Gullo, food; Peggy LaRosa and Mary Gans, dessert table; Jimmy Wychgel and Dick Lynch, bar; Sharon Yori. Karyn Mulligan, Marianne McAuliffe and Dorothy Foster, decorations; Ruth Anne Gillooly, publicity; and Dick Utz, printing.

- The **DHS wrestling team** won the District I championship for the first time. The Whippets piled up 121 team points, to far outdistance second-place finisher Ridley with 73 points. Downingtown's individual champs were Glenn Koser, 119 pounds; Mark Mathis, 126; Duane Krapf, 138; and Ron Wenk, 155.

- The **DHS boys' basketball squad** played "a helluva game," claimed Coach Bob Boyer. But the Whippets were eliminated from the District I playoffs when they lost to Norristown by a 66-60 margin. Brent Thompson paced the offense with an 18-point effort. Downingtown's statistical leaders for the 1979-80 campaign were: Thompson with a 13.4 scoring average and Bob Melvin, who hauled down 6.8 rebounds per game.

- **Kelli Stephenson**, a DHS grad and a junior at Clarion State College, was judged as the all-around champion in the Pennsylvania State College Athletic Conference's gymnastics competition.

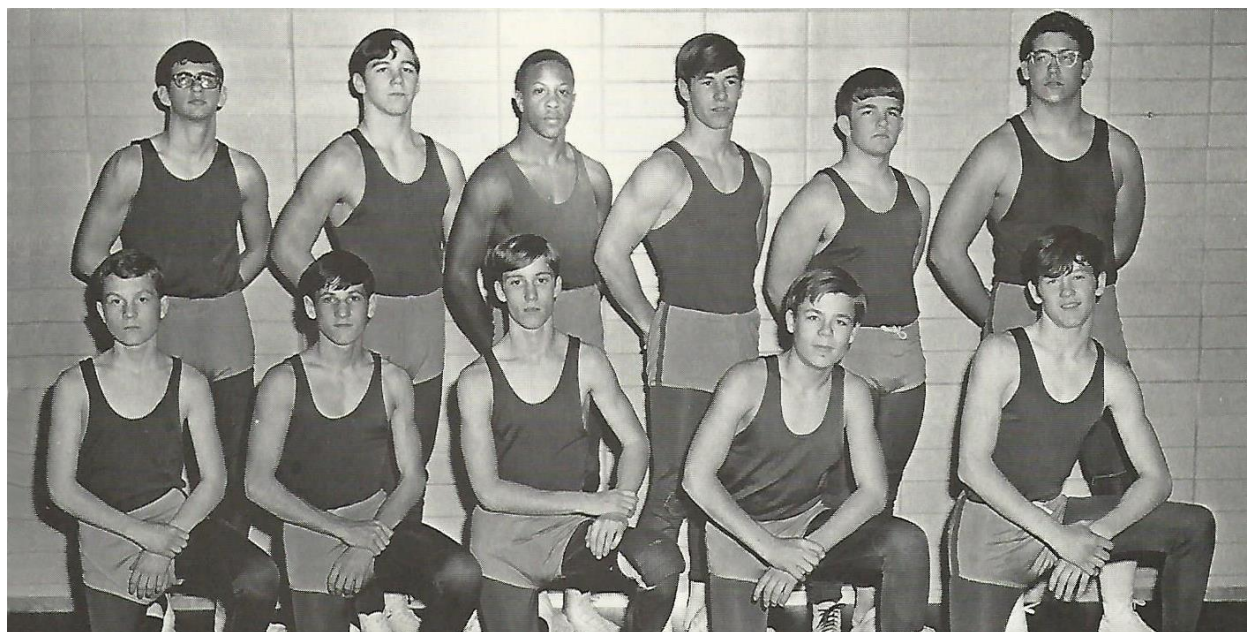
- Jim and Dottie Flanagan were honored at **Cub Pack 8's** Blue and Gold banquet, for being leaders of the pack, sponsored by Hopewell United Methodist Church, for many years.

- Six **DHS seniors** who won first place medals in district VICA competition were: Tom Scalia, small engine repair; Drew Lehr, industrial electronics; Ted Laverty, appliance repair; Tim Detwiler, welding; and Tom Honey, industrial electricity. The competition involved 300 vo-tech students from six counties in eastern Pennsylvania.

Clip/Paste sessions slated for next week

We're looking for volunteers to help at the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, March 6 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, March 8. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Group Photo of the Week:



Members of the DHS jayvee wrestling team in the 1968-69 season were, left to right: kneeling, M. Hartzog, B. Lambert, D. Swarner, J. Weaver and S. O'Connor; standing, B. Mock, P. Harter, R. Lee, B. Hahn, G. Brickles and R. Gilbert

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

More local news during the World War II era

Noted below are items originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* during the winter of 1944:

- The seven and one-half cent pay increase for all employees of the **Collins and Aikman Corp.**, including more than 300 workers at the firm's "plush mill" in the Bondsville section of East Brandywine, was disapproved by the Federal War Labor Board's regional office. Although the raise was based on the increased cost-of-living, an analysis by the Feds showed that the three pay raises since January 1941 were already in excess of the total 15 percent increases permitted by the Board's formula.
- Finding **male teachers** was a challenge because so many had entered the military service or left to work in industry during World War II, said Dr. Charles Chaffee, supervising principal (superintendent) of the Downingtown School District, while he participated in a panel discussion on Philadelphia radio station KYW. And if the five male teachers and two principals, under 38 years of age, in the Downingtown system were inducted into the armed forces, replacing them would be an "almost unsurmountable task," claimed Chaffee.

Miss any of the Hist-O-Grams we released in February?

In case you missed any of last month's Hist-O-Grams, you can access them via:

February 4, 2016: www.downingtowntareahistorical society.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/February%204%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

February 11, 2016: www.downingtowntareahistorical society.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

February 18, 2016: www.downingtowntareahistorical society.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2018%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

February 25, 2016: www.downingtowntareahistorical society.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2025%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

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This sign is on the wall on the west side of the Crossroads Hotel



Yes, this was a toughie. No one recognized the lettering in the photo above, which was painted on the brick wall on the west side of the Crossroads Hotel, at 101 W. Lancaster Ave., in the borough. That building was constructed in 1900. And we suspect the “Viaduct Restaurant” and “Quick Lunch” sign was painted on the wall before 1929, which was when the house next door was built. That’s because the residence next door, at 103 W. Lancaster Ave., made it impossible to read the sign on the building that has been occupied by the Crossroads for many decades. Those who accurately deciphered the lettering on the wall may have mistakenly assumed the restaurant was located on Viaduct Avenue, which begins on the south side of West Lancaster Avenue, and provides an access route to the parking area of the Downingtown Railroad Station and the Johnsontown section of the borough. The photo was provided by Beth Fusco.

Tidbits retrieved from the March 1955 editions of *The Archive*

- Tom Courtless was re-elected president of the **Downingtown Teener Baseball League**. Also re-elected were Bob Plank, vice president; Herman Faucett, treasurer; and Orville Brammer, secretary.
- Ground was broken for the new **Bell Telephone Co.** office on Whiteland Avenue in the borough.
- **East Brandywine Girl Scouts** who sold 50 or more boxes of cookies were Kathy Kahler, Joanne Stanley, Carol Sinex, Joan and Janet Seeds, Cheryl Krapf, Joan Wagner, Nancy Hough, Donna Rissel, Connie Smedley, Holly Bicking, Miriam Ezrah and Sarah Berkey.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

We're New, Folks - so to get acquainted we offer this outstanding value during Dollar days—
**WITH A CHANGE OF OIL
A FREE MOTOR TUNE-UP**
Clean Plugs—Renew Needed Plugs—
Clean Points

**BROOKOVER
BRINTON
GARAGE**
PHONE DTN. 134-J or 244-J
12 Stuart Ave.

A black and white line drawing of a man in a workshop coat leaning over the open hood of a car, working on the engine. The car is a vintage model from the late 1940s. In the background, there are several vertical bars or a fence.

This ad was published in the October 14, 1948 edition of *The Archive*.

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

Local news in *The Archive* 90 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the spring editions of *The Archive* in 1926:

- Pupils in the **Downingtown School System** took ballots to their parents at home so their elders could vote on whether they approved of the school district switching to Daylight Savings Time in the coming months, or if they wanted the schools to continue operating on Standard Time. Since the results of the voting were even split, the school board decided to stick with Standard Time.
- Cornerstone laying ceremonies for the new **Borough Hall** on West Lancaster Avenue were conducted in April. Burgess (Mayor) Ax placed a small copper box—containing plans for the building, a list of those who made donations to fund the construction, a list of the names of the members of Borough Council and the School Board, and copies of the *Downingtown Archive* and the *Daily Local News*—inside the cornerstone. The copper box had been donated by Theodore M. Griffith & Son's hardware store.
- Some 300 DHS graduates attended the high school **Alumni Association's 39th annual banquet**, held in the second floor gymnasium of the Minquas Fire Co. Charles McFadden, representing the Class of 1901 which was celebrating its 25th anniversary, announced that the class would assume responsibility for one of the two \$50 scholarships given to the graduating senior boy and girl with the highest academic standing in the class. The announcement generated a discussion about former years when students who had received a scholarship "did not use it to further their education at higher institutions of higher learning." It was decided that scholarships would only be awarded to those who attended college.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

History of Boyd's Corner

Richard (Dick) Dague, a historian and librarian, will talk about the History of Boyd's Corner (Sadsbury Twp.) and the Boyd Family, which settled in western Sadsbury Township in 1724. The first one was Rev. Adam Boyd, the first pastor of Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. The program, conducted by the West Caln Historical Society, will be offered at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 15 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. It will be free to all and all are welcome.

Italian Dinner

The Marshallton United Methodist Church Youth Group will host an Italian Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 12. There will be continuous seating. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children (5~12). A silent auction will be held during the dinner. Proceeds will go to assist the youth on their summer mission trips. Marshallton UMC is located at 1282 West Strasburg Road. For more information, contact the church at office@marshalltonchurch.org or (610) 696-5247.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Farmers Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're

encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

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Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 10

March 10, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

What locals were talking about in March 1980

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

- Some of the energy-cost savings incorporated into the plans, for the construction of two additions to the **Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School**, included: a dual boiler system, so a backup unit was available if one of the boilers broke down during cold weather months; and some of windows--which were in vogue in the 1950s when the school was built and heating oil was much cheaper--were to be covered.

- John Cropper was appointed to **East Brandywine's** board of supervisors, to fill the term of Winfield Burkey, who resigned because he was moving to East Lake, OH. And in **West Bradford**, Dr. Samuel Wagner was appointed to the board of supervisors, to complete the term of Stephen Hoyt, who resigned.
- Offerings in the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board's** guide for the spring of 1980 included: a tour of the Downingtown water plant on South Lloyd Avenue in the borough.
- Everett Harrington was appointed to the board at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown. Named to the property committee were Jeff Wendel, chairman, and Olin Siever, vice chairman.
- Coach Ellis "Pat" Brown's **Lionville Junior High** wrestling team had been undefeated for five consecutive seasons, winning 43 matches.
- Members of the Hammer & Sons team, which won the **West Bradford Youth Association's** basketball league, were Jack Hamilton, Adam O'Doherty, Beau and Sunny Hobbs, Chris, Kevin and Tom McCool, Paul Siever, Drew Bradley and Bill Russ.
- A 25-year-old, New Jersey woman was arrested in Freehold, NJ, for being one of the two people who reportedly robbed the Lionville branch, on Route 100, of the **Downingtown Savings and Loan Association** on March 13. And a 31-year-old male was the third suspect arrested in Philadelphia for robbing the **Brandywine Saving and Loan Association's Downingtown office** in September 1979.
- Enid Brown received the Citizen of the Year Award at the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** 35th annual banquet. And the two-year-old Downingtown Historical Society, received the Chamber's Special Award.
- The **First Baptist Church** basketball team held off a furious rally by **Central Presbyterian**, to win the Downingtown Junior Church League playoffs in a 55-53 squeaker. Dave Kucera and Ed Novak, with 20 and 18 points respectively, led the Baptists' scoring. Matt Mingione, 15 points, and Mark Kolar, 14, were the Presbyterians' top scorers.
- Citizens appointed to the **Downingtown School Board's** Budget Advisory Committee were: William Kuhlkin, Upper Uwchlan; Joseph Jacobs, Downingtown; Harold Hallman, West Pikeland; Jay Lammey, East Brandywine; John Rent, Wallace; Sue Ellen Katancik, Uwchlan; John Gauer, East Caln; Joseph Lewis, West Bradford; and Howard Charles, Downingtown.
- **Lionville Junior High School** students who had featured roles in the production of "EVENing Out" were Paula Yablonski, Mike DiPietropaolo, Todd Rosenlieb, Janice DeMucci, Frances Hoffman, Jaye Nunan, Linda Schwabenbauer, Sandy Puy, Carole Tottser, Diane Shivers, Paul Earle, Michele Buruschkin, Lisa Anklewich, Laura Sachuk, Kevin Copp and Eric Elvanian.

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www.downtontownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Group Photo of the Week:



Regina Viscichini Martin sent us this photo of the DHS track team, which was published in the high school's 1942 yearbook. Members of the squad were, left to right: first row, Leonard Francella, Willie DeCarlo, Alfonso Travaglini, Erwin Reutter, Isaac Marinas, Lawrence Robinson; second row, Emerson Glauner, Robert Means, George Gregory, Richard Johnson, Vincent Petrella, Willier Collier; third row, Paul Moran, Bruce Bird, Jonathan Windle, Robert Esworthy, Fred McDermott, Oscar Asparagus; fourth row, Raymond Barrow (manager), Coach Kermit Montz, Carl Valente (manager).

News items originally published in local papers 68 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from papers published in early September 1948:

- New first graders at **Lionville Elementary School** included Marie Boyer, Nancy Shreiner, Sandra Meredith, Marie Abel, Joan Fisher, Joseph McClure, Eddie Matthews, Jackie Stine, Walter Supplee and Eddie Pringle. And members of the safety patrol at the school were: Capt, Cora Smedley, Esther Supplee, Carl Ruth, Harry Dewees, Marjorie Richard, Shirley Drennan and Richard Taylor.

- Emerson Glauner, Robert Trader W.H. Backenstose, Bruce Hashinger and Charles Broomell told members of the **Alert Fire Co.**, Downingtown, what they learned when they attended five days of classes at the Pennsylvania Firemen's School in Lewisburg, PA.

- **J. C. Geisel** took over the Gulf gas station at the west end of Marshallton.
- Officers elected to lead the Women's Missionary Society at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were: Mrs. Edwin Wagner, president; Mrs. Joseph Harvey, vice president; Mrs. Frank W. Smedley, secretary; Ola Johnson, financial secretary; and Mrs. Harold Peoples, treasurer.

- Members of the **Lionville chapter of the Odd Fellows**, who took more than 30 kids to see the Philadelphia Athletics play at Shibe Park, included: Sherman Kirkpatrick, George Thompson, Schuyler Rennard, Elmer Kochel, Horace Phipps and Warren Supplee.
- The **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club** stocked 37 full-grown cock pheasants in open lands within a 3-mile radius of the borough. The drops were made by Elmer Schrupf, James Summers, George Kacy and Elston Hillman.
- Officers of the **Whitford Club**, comprised of people who swam at the Blue Hole Quarry in West Whiteland, included: Mrs. William Ball, president; Joseph Huggins, vice president; James Wood, secretary; Theodore Griffith, treasurer; and directors Mrs. Thomas Parke, Mrs. John Young, Horace Thomas and Merwin Reese.
- By beating Kimberton in two semi-final games, Downingtown earned the right to play in a best-of-five championship series against Malvern for the **Chester County Baseball League** crown. In the first game against Kimberton, Downingtown's Bob Wolcott, who also was a pitcher for Princeton University, gave up only three hits and allowed only one walk. Downingtown scored both of its runs in the sixth frame, when Tony Mattioni's single brought in Charlie Forte, and Bob McCardell's singled in another run score, by Dom Ore. In the second semi-final, Charley Shreiner, who also pitched for the Temple Owls, limited Kimberton to three hits. Hits by Mattioni, Shreiner, "Rabbit" Brumgard, Bill Kellon and Dick Dague in the sixth inning enabled Downingtown to reach the finals by a 5-2 margin.

Vintage Ad of the Week:



Keep Cool

At the
*Brandywine
Tea Room*

A. LEE MILLER, Prop.

GENUINE HOME COOKING

FULL COURSE DINNER, A LA CARTE SERVICE

A new, modern Tea Room, sanitary in every respect.
We serve parties, lodges, etc., up to 50 people. A large
rest room for lounging.

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT

103 BRANDYWINE AVE.
DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

Phone 303-M

This ad appeared in the June 5, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown News*.

It's West Strasburg Road in the center of Marshallton



Although many people thought the houses in the photo above were located on the north side of East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, John Carbo was the first of several people who recognized the locale as West Strasburg Road in the center of Marshallton in the late 19th Century.

Our Wish List

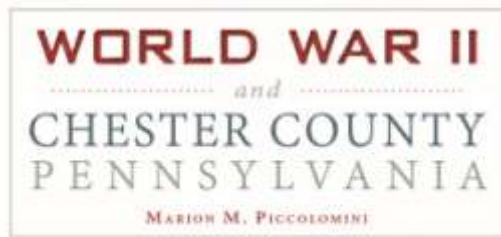
The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

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Historical Society officer authors book on how Chester County residents reacted to World War II



Most American adults are familiar with details about the World War II era, from stories heard at home as well as tales offered in movies and books. But we know little of what was happening on in Chester County during that period, or the impact the war had on local residents' lives.

Marion Piccolomini has helped to fill that void by authoring *World War II and Chester County Pennsylvania*. Published by History Press, Piccolomini's book provides insights on the extraordinary measures folks on the home front took to support the allied forces.

They include a West Chester man's development of a process to mass produce vitally needed penicillin, while a peaceful farm was transformed into the Army's bustling Valley Forge Hospital in 1943. Women entered labor positions at companies such as Lukens Steel, to meet production demands. And the Downingtown High School Alumni Association sent issues of its newsletters to local GIs stationed overseas and across America.

Overall, Piccolomini's book celebrates the resilience and perseverance of Chester County residents in the midst of total war.

A daughter of a World War II veteran, Piccolomini is secretary of the Downingtown Area Historical Society and a member of the West Nantmeal Historical Commission. After earning a master's degree in speech pathology at Penn State, she has worked in the medical, college and private practice fields.

You can purchase a copy of the book by calling (888) 313-2665 or sending an email to sales@arcadiapublishing.com. Information on Piccolomini's local book signings will be noted in future Hist-O-Grams.

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

Thanks Ruth



Ruth Schlomann Morganto, DHS Class of 1982, is obviously proud that she was a member of the high school marching band, which won its first state championship in a 1981 cavalcade. Why else would she have saved that jacket shown above, which includes a patch noting that championship, as well as lettering on the back, indicating she was part of the band's Silk Corps. Ruth and her Mom, Mary Jo Schlomann, also donated a 1979 recording of the DHS concert band and chorus, plus many of printed programs for DHS musicals in the 1980s.

This is the first DHS marching band artifact we have acquired for our archives, and we're sure there's lots more out there. So if there is any DHS marching band stuff taking up valuable room in your closets and you want to donate it to our archival collection, please contact us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

History of Boyd's Corner

Richard (Dick) Dague, a historian and librarian, will talk about the History of Boyd's Corner (Sadsbury Twp.) and the Boyd Family, which settled in western Sadsbury Township in 1724. The first one was Rev. Adam Boyd, the first pastor of Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. The program, conducted by the West Caln Historical Society, will be offered at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 15 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. It will be free to all and all are welcome.

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Readers on the Run

The Downingtown Library's Readers on the Run road races will be conducted on Green Street in the borough on Saturday, April 9. They will start at 8 AM with a 5K run, followed by a 1-mile race at 8:15, and then a 100-yard dash for kids at 9 AM. Entry fees for the 5K and Walk are \$25 before April 2 and \$30 on race day. The Kids' Dash costs \$10. To register online and for more info, access: www.racemenu.com/readers.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

World War II Weekend

The Borough's Historic Commission will have a World War II Weekend in Kerr Park, Downingtown, from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. No rain date. The main event—military displays, encampments and vehicle displays—will open at 10 AM on Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults and kids over 12. WW II vets get in free. There will be a "USO Dance" at 7 PM on Saturday night. Tickets are \$5/person or \$8/couple..

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



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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Vol. 7, No. 11

March 17, 2016

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What locals were talking about in the summer of 1926

Noted below are news items that were published in the *Downingtown Archive* 90 years ago:

- “The largest crowd that has visited the borough in many years was on hand last Saturday evening, when the **Ku Klux Klan** held a large parade and celebration” in Downingtown, claimed the September 2, 1926 edition of *The Archive*. The parade included over 1,000 KKK members who marched over the town’s principal streets. Burgess (mayor) Calvin Ax had given the KKK an unrestricted permit for the parade. “The paraders wore tightly drawn masks about their faces, in the first parade of this kind held in the county,” added *The Archive*’s report. “At previous parades, members of the Klan, at all times, were required to march without the visors they wear at meetings of the mystic organization.”

The local newspaper also noted: “The streets were thronged with spectators, and the largest crowd in the history of the borough was present. Visitors started to arrive as early as 5 o’clock, and by the time the parade started, it was almost impossible to get along Lancaster Avenue. Good order prevailed throughout the entire evening, and not one disturbance took place during the parade or at the meeting” in a field in the northwestern section of the borough. It included the burning of a “huge cross,” which could be seen in all parts of town.

After several KKK members spoke briefly, the principal speaker, a man identified as Rev. Grube, “held the attention of the 3,000 persons gathered around him.”

- In a profile on Tommy Gray, **Downingtown’s longtime police chief**, the reporter noted that Gray was originally hired in 1894 as a “high constable” as well as police chief. He was in his 30s, and his salary was \$15 a month. He recalled that in those early days, there often were 20 drunks in the borough lockup on a Saturday night.

- The **Northwood Cemetery** purchased 13 acres of adjoining wood lot from the Thomas Downing estate, at a cost of \$66 per acre. However, part of the cost of the acquisition would be reduced by selling timber harvested from the wood lot.

- Bids for the concrete paving of 3,650 feet of **Bondsville Road** in East Brandywine Township were projected to be \$30,000. Half of the cost was to be paid by the State Highway Department, and the balance would be split evenly between the county and the township.

- The **Calm School Board** planned to build a consolidated elementary school on Route 30, on a 5-acre plot, next to the Chester County Rod and Gun Club. Plans called for construction of a one-story, eight-room school.

- The **Minquas Fire Co.** ordered a new pumper from the Hale Co. in Conshohocken, and the **Alerts** ordered a new Seagraves chemical truck. Also, the Minquas’ membership had exceeded 500, and there was hope that there would be more than 600 on the rolls by September.

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

Group Photo of the Week:



Members of the Home Economics Club at DHS in 1977 included, left to right: Kimberly Brian, Wendy Bates, Patty McCue, Dawn Davis and Karen Martini.

Items published in local newspapers 68 years ago

Noted below are items, which were retrieved from newspapers published in the latter part of September 1948.

- Film legend Jimmy Stewart; Ezra Stone, who was the star of the “Henry Adlrich” radio show; and the reigning Miss Pennsylvania got a rousing welcome in Downingtown when the “**Pennsylvania Week Train**” made a stop in the borough. An estimated 3,000 cheering spectators and the DHS marching band came to the Downingtown Railroad Station to greet the celebrities who entertained the throng. The special seven-car train was an integral part of a state-wide effort to promote the commonwealth’s businesses and industries. The entourage started its week-long, 15-stop jaunt in Philadelphia, and Downingtown was the first stop beyond Philly. Arranged locally by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Week events also included public tours of local industries.

- Chester Glisson, **Downingtown Police Chief** for 21 years, resigned. In his letter of resignation, Glisson said he had recently bought Sheehy’s Restaurant on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough. The establishment had been owned and operated as a restaurant and taproom for many years by John Sheehy, who had decided to retire. His son, Joseph Sheehy, who had been involved in the business, recently purchased a taxi business in Downingtown from Anthony Cozzone. Although the elder Sheehy reportedly was seeking \$40,000 for the business, he declined to confirm that sale figure.

- Youths from throughout the borough had an opportunity to watch TV shows on Friday nights in a social room at Downingtown’s **Messiah Lutheran Church**. A campaign to raise

money to buy the TV set was spearheaded by Dr. George Bousum and Joseph Streamer, co-superintendents of Messiah's Sunday School.

- Mrs. Atley Ney, president of the **West Ward School Mothers Club**, appointed these committee chairmen: Mrs. David Ross, membership; Mrs. Gerard Manz, hospitality; and Mrs. Peter Short, publicity. Also, Mrs. David D'Attilio was appointed club secretary, replacing Mrs. William Boylan who moved from the area.

- Youngsters who advanced in the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church** in Lionville included: Joseph McClure, Jimmie Rennard, Peggy Ann White, Eddy Matthews and Geraldine Whitely, to the primary class; and Virginia Walters and Schuyler Rennard, to the junior class.

- Mrs. Ernest Martin, president of the **Marshallton School PTA**, appointed the following members to the executive committee: Anna Nields, Mrs. Paul Hoffman and Donald Mitchell. Appointed as committee chairmen were Mrs. Henry Ramsey, membership; and Mrs. Wilson Young, literature and magazines. Mrs. Harry Wickersham was elected vice president, to replace Gloria Chapman, who moved from the school district.

- Edward Spamer was elected president of Downingtown's **American Legion Post**. Also elected were Leon Gable, first vice president; Duer Smedley, second vice president; Harlan Clavier, financial officer; Rev. David Stewart, chaplain; Paul Dague, historian; Jonathan Windle, sergeant-at-arms; and Francis Summers, adjutant.

- First and second grade students in the **Wallace Township School District** attended classes in the lower room at Indiantown School and were taught by Mrs. Miriam Fillman. Third and fourth graders went to the Lincoln School, where they were taught by Mrs. Freda Johnson. And fifth, sixth and seventh graders were taught by Mrs. Mary Eppihimer in the upper classroom at Indiantown School.

- Officers of the **East Ward School Mothers Club** were: Mrs. Ralph Hedricks, president; Mrs. Laverne Moore, vice president; Mrs. James Charles, secretary; and Mrs. Leebert Chambers, treasurer. Committee chairmen included Mrs. Edward Klunk publicity; Mrs. Ogier Norris, hostess; Mrs. Thomas Lee, hospitality; Mrs. Newlin Moore, homeroom mothers; and Mrs. John Swarner, ways and means.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.

- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.

- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

GUERNSEY CATTLE

Accredited Herd, No. 111,646

**Milk produced under sanitary conditions on
our farm. We deliver CLEAN MILK IN
CLEAN BOTTLES. Be sure our name is on
the cap and on the bottle,**

LOWEBROOK FARMING COMPANY

NOTICE!

**After July 1st a reward will be offered for information
leading to arrest and conviction of any persons illegally
using our name, milk bottles or caps. The law provides heavy
penalties for offenders.**

LOWEBROOK FARMING COMPANY

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

www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

It was the Charles News Agency



Dan Lindley was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the interior of Charles News Agency, 107 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. H. E. Groff bought the news agency from Raymond Greenleaf in 1926. After Groff died two years later, Sam Charles and his wife, Groff's daughter Alice, managed the business until Alice died in 1939. Sam Charles ran the place for Mrs. H.E. Groff until 1944, when he remarried and bought the business from Mrs. Groff. Sam and, subsequently, his son, Bob, continued run the agency until 1999, when the store was closed.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Easter Egg Hunt

St. Paul's UCC Church, 101 Worthington Road, Exton, will have an Easter Egg Hunt for kids 10 and under at 2 PM Saturday, March 19.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lectures at 3:30 PM on the Sundays noted: **March 20**, at the township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville. Greg Pilotti, heirloom furniture maker will discuss his work, furniture care and building techniques; **April 17**, at Bondsville Mill Park, 1647 Bondsville Road, Bryan Thompson Nowak, Horticulturalist at Morris Arboretum, will take you on nature walk and sheds some light on our local landscape; **May 15**, Mathew Kalos will discuss what he's uncovered in his archaeological digs in Chester County, at the East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville.

Readers on the Run

The Downingtown Library's Readers on the Run road races will be conducted on Green Street in the borough on Saturday, April 9. They will start at 8 AM with a 5K run, followed by a 1-mile race at 8:15, and then a 100-yard dash for kids at 9 AM. Entry fees for the 5K and Walk are \$25 before April 2 and \$30 on race day. The Kids' Dash costs \$10. To register online and for more info, access: www.racemenu.com/readers.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

True Story of Amelia Earhart's Disappearance

Richard (Ric) Gillespie, historian, author, executive director of TIGHAR and aeronautic researcher will present Finding Amelia - The True Story of the Earhart Disappearance in a West Caln Historical Society program at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 19 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The program is free and open to all.

World War II Weekend

The Borough's Historic Commission will have a World War II Weekend in Kerr Park, Downingtown, from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. No rain date. The main event—military displays, encampments and vehicle displays—will open at 10 AM on Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults and kids over 12. WW II vets get in free. There will be a "USO Dance" at 7 PM on Saturday night. Tickets are \$5/person or \$8/couple.

Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet room for rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

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



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 7, No. 12

March 24, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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

What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items original papers published in local papers in the latter part of February 1964:

- A requirement that construction of an **addition to the high school** had to include a planetarium was eliminated from the plans, after nine members of the Downingtown Joint High School Board met with state education officials in Harrisburg. Action on the expansion project—which also included 18 classrooms, an auxiliary gym and a library—had been delayed because of the local board’s opposition to the state-mandated planetarium. The school board also increased **starting teachers’ annual salaries** with bachelor’s degrees to \$4,500.
- Some 330 members of Local 414, United Papermakers and Paperworkers Union, returned to work at the **Downingtown Paper Co.**, following a 48-day strike. The terms of the settlement included “a two-year contract, with a wage increase of one per cent the first year and three per cent the second year,” according to union officials. The agreement also called for DOPACO to – pay all premiums for employee and dependent hospital- surgical insurance.
- A \$30,000 fire destroyed the **Cresmer Fence Co.** facility at the intersection of Route 30 and Whitford Road in West Whiteland. The three-story, 200-foot-long, wood structure originally had been a chicken hatchery.
- Leaders of **Marshallton’s Cub Pack 152**, who were honored for their service, included Norman Geddes, cubmaster; Harry Verngren, committee chairman; Clifford Queen, treasurer; and den mothers Mrs. Francis Wood, Mrs. John Sellers, Mrs. Joseph Kirkner, Mrs. Robert Siter, Mrs. Donald Michnuk and Mrs. Frank Bates,
- The **DHS girls’ basketball team** ended its season with a 29-25 win over Conshohocken. Liz Von Hacht led the Whippette offense with 18 points. Their season record was 6-2.
- These members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were nominated for leadership positions: Earl Radcliffe, president; Steve MacNeill, first vice president; Bill Balderston, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; and Lloyd Swarner, treasurer. Nominated for director were Charles Gebron, Ches Hall, Bob Romig, Hallan Usher, Andy Kissh, Don White and William Kline.
- Following a 102-44 loss to Phoenixville, in which the **DHS boys’ basketball squad** made only 18 of 68 (26 per cent) of its shots, the Whippets bounced back against Spring-Ford by making 58 percent of their shots in a 69-42 win over the Rams.
- Robert Worthington, a Downingtown Junior High student, won the oratorical contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Optimist Club**. Other contestants were David Findley, David Corry, Val DiEuliis, and James Rice.
- Members of the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church**, who traveled to Philadelphia to see the Chinese New Year parade,, were Andy, Ginny, Bobby and Timmy Gotwals; Jeanne Marie and Ronald Thomas; Louise Hanley; Mary Louise Schlimme; Lois Grubb; Kenneth Yocum; Donald Fisher, Tommy Schwartzentruber and Pete McBall.
- DHS students who earned **typing speed certificates** included: Rodger Geisel, Patricia Harple and Barbara Whitney, whose score was 50 words per minute; and Barbara Yohn, Carol Sinex, Audrey Strouse, Nancy Martin, Darlene Kimes, Beverly Mitchell, Joan Morrison, Margaret MacDougall, Marlene Harple and Betty Spickler, typed at 40 words per minute. And **shorthand speed awards** for taking dictation and transcribing notes at 100 words per minute were presented to Elizabeth Turner and Susan Eachus.

It's Fairview Presbyterian Church in Glen Moore



Brenda Lewis was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as Fairview Presbyterian Church in Glen Moore. The photo was taken in the first decade of the 20th Century. The first church, built on land donated by James Todd, was dedicated in 1840, when there were 20 members in the congregation. A new church, using materials from the original building, was built in 1871. At that time, John Wanamaker, Philadelphia department store magnate, donated the large steeple bell which continues to be used today. Pew rent was discontinued in 1900, replaced by an envelope system. In 1913, stained glass windows were installed behind the pulpit, and stone posts and front gates were added. The old, sagging steeple was replaced by a block tower in 1927-28. A Model-T Ford was purchased for the pastor in 1920. And Rev. David Stewart was the church's longest-serving pastor, from 1924 until 1951. The church tower was removed in 1958 and replaced by a new belfry and steeple. The Rev. Dr. Mark Atkinson is the current pastor.

Dr. Diane DiEuliis to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: This is the first of four profiles on those persons who will be inducted into DHS Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. The induction will take place at the Alumni Association's 132nd annual banquet on Saturday, April 16, at the Downingtown Country Club. You can access more info on the banquet via: www.downingtowntalumni.org/banquet.html.

Diane DiEuliis, Ph.D., Class of 1984, is the Deputy Director for Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a position she has held since August, 2011. In that position, she is responsible for assisting in the coordination of policy and strategic planning for components of the Office of the ASPR and directly supporting the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy.

Prior to joining the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. DiEuliis was the Assistant Director for Life Sciences and Behavioral and Social Sciences in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President. During her four-year tenure at the White House, she was responsible for coordinating health issues among Federal departments and agencies, and was involved in developing policy in areas such as biosecurity, biosafety, human subjects, synthetic biology, Federal scientific collections, public access, and biotechnology. She also managed portfolios in the Science of Science Policy (devoted to measuring the outcomes of Federal investments in Science and Technology), and Research Business Models (devoted to streamlining administrative requirements in the grants and contracts process). She also worked to help coordinate agency response to public health issues such as the H1N1 flu.

Before working at OSTP, Dr. DiEuliis was a program director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she managed a diverse portfolio of neuroscience research in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. She completed a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from the University of Delaware, and completed her postdoctoral research in the NIH Intramural research program, where she focused on cellular and molecular neuroscience.

Brief but important

- Our Ashbridge House headquarters will not be open on Easter Sunday.
- Members of the 1963 St. Anthony's Lodge swimming team, who were honored at a banquet, included: Rhys Williams, Judy Reutter, Kathy and Shirley Pomento, James Perella, Donna Capriotti, Joann and Robert Mento and Cheryl Valocchi. Dave Orth was the head coach, and Mike McShane and Ethan Berry were the assistant coaches.
- After she saw that the What and Where Is This? photo in the March 10 edition of the Hist-O-Gram was an interior shot of Charles News Agency in Downingtown, Caroline Ash provided us with some info we never knew or couldn't recall. She said that her father, Herb Ash, used to take Caroline and her sister, Sissy, to Sam Charles's store back in the 1960s, after they attended church on a Sunday morning, for a treat—milkshakes and peanut butter crackers. The milkshakes, made with Jane Logan ice cream, were prepared at the soda fountain (without stools) in the back of the store. Anyone remember who was the soda jerk at that soda fountain?

Group Photo of the Week:



This photo of fifth graders, who attended Beaver Creek School in Downingtown in 1969-1970, was donated to the Historical Society by Cindy Starr-Wittman. Pictured, left to right, are: first row, Chris MacDonald, Eric Shepard, Kathy Reinhart, Brian Girard, Richard Miles, Robin Dunn, Chad McNeil, Linda Chicosky; second row, Terry Norris, Mike Delio, Dinah Ferguson, Steve Archer, Cynthia Fury, Andrew Schwartz, Bryan Byer, Peter Hoeflich, Deb Porta, unidentified, Diane Urban, Teal Burns, Mrs. Bittle (teacher); third row, Miss Klinger (student teacher), Joseph Pierce, Karen Protivnak, Kathy Stringer, Donna Zelinski, Philip Mento, Sam Carbo, Brian Francella, Lori Gregor, unidentified, Maryanne Fox, Anthony Sweeney.

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, 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, 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.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

Gala Opening . . Tonight

THE NEW TERRACE

ON THE BANKS OF VALLEY CREEK

AT EXTON LODGE

Exton, Pa.

Tonight, August 27

Featuring the Talented Artistry of
FRANKIE ALTER on the PIANO
and HAMMOND ORGAN
and Presenting our Newest Find
MARY GRADEN, Vocalist
Also JOHNNY WILLIAMS TRIO

"DANCING UNDER THE STARS"

Continuous Entertainment

In 1939, Harold Martin built the Exton Lodge at the southwest corner of Routes 100 and 30, better known as the Exton Crossroads, in West Whiteland. After it was razed in the early 1980s, a Denny's Restaurant was built on the site. Martin was recognized as the Godfather of the Exton Bypass. This ad was published in the *Daily Local News* in August 1948.

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Free Ads for Non-Profits

Book Sale

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will hold a spring book sale on Friday April 15 from 5-7:30 PM and on Saturday April 16 from 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be a wide selection of adult fiction and non-fiction, young adult and children's books, audio books, movies and music CDs. Donations of gently used children's books, adult books, DVDs, CDs and books on tape for the sale are now being accepted. No textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines, please. Donations can be dropped off at the library, through April 9 during regular business hours. For more details, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

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Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 30. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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

Vol. 7, No. 13

March 31, 2016

What Was Going On?



We suspect that almost everyone knows that the site in the photo above is East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, just west of Brandywine Avenue. And yes, the industrial building on the right was the Bicking Paper Co. mill when the photo was taken. What we're looking for is someone who recognizes what the workmen were doing in the middle of the street. The first person who correctly identifies what they were doing will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

What area residents were talking about in early March 1964

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

- Downingtown Council voted to adopt a **\$10 occupational privilege tax** that would provide an additional \$28,000 to the borough's coffers. But Borough Council had several other

more controversial issues to deal with at its monthly meeting. They included: the possibility of having a small (5-7 beds) emergency medical facility, which would cost about \$250,000 annually to operate; and hiring a full-time health and housing inspector.

- **Upper Uwchlan Township** residents were in an uproar about the planned Marsh Creek reservoir and park project. The township's supervisors announced at several meetings that they planned to seek a preliminary injunction in order to limit the powers of the Chester County Water Resources Authority. They were particularly opposed to the "absolute miss-use of eminent domain" to condemn homes in the Milford Mills area in order to create a "playground." Township officials also were miffed about the "high-handed manner and arrogance" displayed by State Department of Forests and Waters, which had failed to discuss the project's "ill effects" with the township.

- **Herbert Lee**, who graduated from DHS in 1952, was named the high school's head track coach. He replaced Charles Ax. Lee had earned a bachelor's and master's degrees at West Chester State College, where he had been a standout on the football team. He also was a science teacher at Beaver Creek School.

- Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** who received awards for their entries in a sewing contest were Mrs. Robert Kaster, first; Mrs. Thomas McNeil, second; and Mrs. David Kohlhas, third.

- After the **West Bradford School Board** had considered sites for a new elementary school in the township for 20 months, the Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board appointed a committee to start negotiating with the owner of 21.5 acres on Broad Run Road.

- Members of the cast in the student production of "**Damn Yankee**" at DHS were Irvin Yeaworth, Janet Strawsnyder, Sally Pyle, Edwin Conner, Linda Pyle, Robert Bruton, Shirley Robinson, Gene Martin, James Sanders, Carol French, William Uhler, Sara Campbell, Ruth Travaglini, Margaret Woodland, Sandra Irwin, Steve Meacham, Terry Knox and Stephen Mascherino.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who earned promotions in rank included: Tenderfoot—Robert Baker, Gary Cross, Danny Hayes, Gary Morinelli and David Coover; Second Class—James Rowan; Star—James Young.

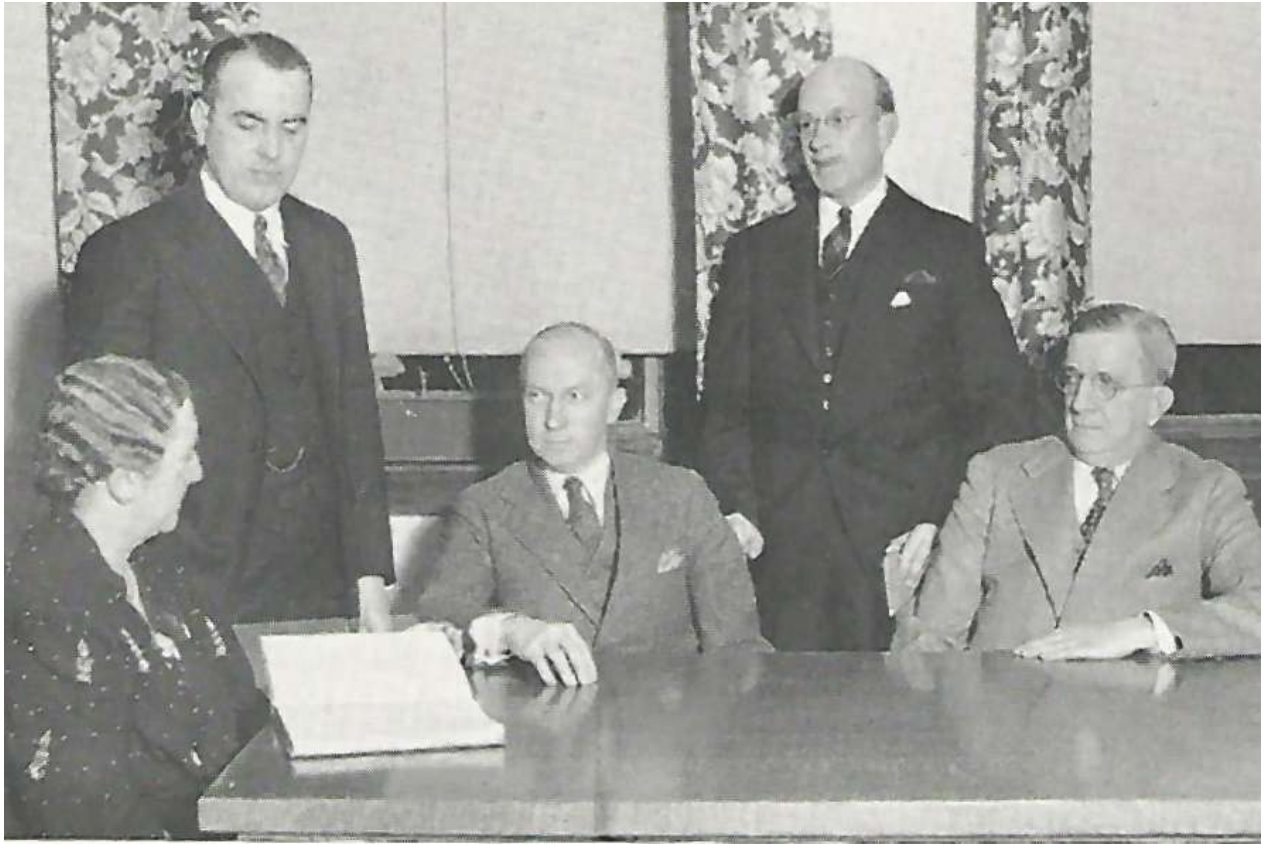
- Thieves looted two borough restaurants on East Lancaster Avenue. Inez Bachai, owner, said more than \$150 was stolen from the **Downingtown Dining Room**, and Nicholas Mazzi reported that an undetermined amount of cash was stolen in a break-in at **Lena's Steak Shop**.

- First graders at **Beaver Creek School** who participated in an assembly on "Traffic Safety" included: John Yanetti, Linda Stallard, Linda and Coralee Felegy, Beverly Failor, Bruce March, Nicky Madrigale, Debbie Thompson, Robin Whiteman, Mary McDonald, Billy Carpenter, Colleen Morris, Tyrone Banks, Kathleen Porreca, Kathy Wharton, Billy Hayes and Stephen Gbur.

- DHS seniors selected to attend the third annual **Lukens Steel Co.** Student Management Conference were Francis Strouse and Walter Conner.

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

Group Photo of the Week:



This serious looking group was the Downingtown School Board in 1943. They were, left to right: President Belle Hutchison, George Nixdorf, Leland Wilson, Dr. Carl Dent and Robert Ash.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- Any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

Locals celebrated new Borough Hall & undefeated football team 90 years ago

The fall of 1926 was a joyous season for Downingtown residents, because that's when the newly constructed Borough Hall was dedicated, a consolidated Post Office was established in the new municipal building, and the undefeated DHS football squad was the mythical county champion, according to articles in the *Downingtown Archive*.

The **Borough Hall** dedication ceremonies on the morning of October 9, 1926 were followed by a **Firemen's Parade** in the afternoon, before new apparatus were housed at the town's two fire companies. Then there was a **grand parade** in the evening, with 10 bands and hundreds of marchers, who included members of local Scout troops; students from borough schools; representatives and equipment from area fire departments; members of the DAR, American Legion, VFW, Odd Fellows, Redmen, POSA, Moose Lodge, St. Anthony's Lodge, local industries' floats and area motorcycle clubs. Marshalls for the parade's five divisions were John Sheridan, Horace Carpenter, Martin Binder, Graham Bentley and Anthony DiLuigi. Paul Dague was the grand marshal.

The *Archive* didn't cover the **DHS football team's** exploits in the early part of the 1926 season, although Downingtown had defeated Royersford, the Lower Merion reserves and Collingdale. But when the Papertowners beat Coatesville for the first time since 1918, that accomplishment caught the weekly newspaper's attention. The fact that "Cap" Wando's last-minute, extra point kick sailed between the uprights—following a tricky Griffith-to-Mento pass play for a TD—enabled Downingtown to defeat the Steel City boys 7-6.

Downingtown followed that upset win by beating Conshohocken, Berwyn and Spring City, plus a scoreless tie with West Chester, and a 6-3 victory in the **annual Thanksgiving morning fray** with the DHS Alumni team.

Although there was **no official county championship** at the time, the DHS Athletic Council showed its appreciation for the team's accomplishments by having a turkey dinner at the Downingtown Woman's Club. And the players were guests of the Coatesville Auditorium to see "One Minute to Play," a silent film in which All-American running back "Red" Grange had a role.

We need volunteers for Clip/Paste sessions

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, April 3 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, April 12. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

It's at 424 Washington Ave., Downingtown



Mark Myers is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as 424 Washington Ave. in Downingtown. Mark should know because his family lived there for 21 years, from 1965-1986. The best part of growing up there, besides a short walk to East Ward School, across the street from his house, was the field that's still part of East Ward's playground. Mark says he enjoyed playing in many pick-up basketball and baseball games there. Larry Meredith, who provided the photo, lived at 424 Washington Ave and later at 417 Washington Avenue, as a youngster in the 1940s and 1950s.

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, 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, 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.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

July Clearance Sale

Starting Monday, July 19 -- Ending July 24

Snader's Place, E. Downingtown

20 Per Cent Off on all Sporting Goods, Fishing Tackle, Bathing Goods, Trunks, Suit Cases, Etc.

30 Per Cent. Off On All Our Men's and Women's SPRING COATS !

Shoes Reduced

150 Pairs Ladies' Shoes.....\$1.50
 200 Pairs Ladies' Shoes 2.00
 250 Pairs Ladies' Shoes..... 2.50
 140 Pairs Ladies' Shoes..... 3.00
 (Just About Half-Price)
 375 Men's Oxfords.....20% Off
 175 Children's Shoes20% Off
 150 Small Child's Shoes..... 20% Off
 375 Men's, Women's and Child-
 ren's Sneaks..... 20% Off

Specials in Hosiery

700 prs Men's Fancy Hose40c
 300 prs Ladies' Silk Hose.....40c
 (all shades)
 A Big Line of Sport Sox, special
 for this week only.....10c up
 75 doz. Men's Half Hose ..9c, 3 for 25c
 80 pr Men's Hose, special.....2 pr 25c
 22 doz Ladies' 35c Hose, while
 they last3 prs 50c

94 MEN'S EXTRA FINE SUITS . \$12.00 to \$20.00

REALLY WORTH \$18.00 to \$45.00

Palm Beach and Mohair Suits . . . \$11.00

180 Men's 75c Blue Work Shirts
 60c.

240 Men's \$1.00 Blue Work Shirts
 75c.

72 pr. \$1.25 Khaki Pants..... \$1.00

180 pr. \$1.75 Khaki Pants\$1.25

240 pr. \$1.75 Dark Work Pants
 \$1.15

90 pr. \$1.50 Heavy 220 Denim Over-
 alls, \$1.00

\$2.50 Headlight, King Kord and Lee
 Overalls and Blouses, \$1.75

800 pr. Work and Dress Pants
 20% Off

**20 Per Cent. Off On All
 DRESS and SPORT SHIRTS**

30% Off Men's Straw Hats

**25% Off All Sweaters, Lumber
 Jacks, Sport Coats, Knickers, for
 the whole family, and many
 other specials.**

ONE WEEK ONLY -- JULY 19th to 24th

W. A. SNADER, The Clothier
East Lancaster Ave. East Downingtown

This ad was originally published in the July 22, 1926 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Pamela Foy to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: This is the second of four profiles on those persons who will be inducted into DHS Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. The induction will take place at the Alumni Association's 132nd annual banquet on Saturday, April 16, at the Downingtown Country Club. You can access more info on the banquet via: www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html. Also, the DHS Class of 1971 will hold its 45th reunion at the Alumni Association banquet on April 16. Contact Nancy Mattioni McFalls at nmcfalls@comcast.net if you have not received an invitation.

Pamela M Foy, DHS Class of 1974, started distinguishing herself in the field of radiology, at Coatesville Hospital's School of Radiology, continuing her education at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, and earning a Bachelor's degree from Widener University and a Master's degree from The Ohio State University. She holds certificates in a variety of areas of radiology and sonography and has contributed dozens of articles in various professional journals and chapters on ultrasound and sonography to many textbooks. Over the past 35 years, Pam has made presentations to professional organizations throughout the country, particularly on factors of pre-natal sonography.

Pam has lectured at the State University of New York and Thomas Jefferson University in diagnostic sonography and is currently a Clinical Associate Professor for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the Imaging Manager for OB Ultrasound.

She has been married to Bruce Nesselroth for 32 years and is the proud mother of Caitlyn, an attorney at the Ohio Attorney General's office, and Meghan, who will finish her Pharmacology degree in May 2017.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Art Gala & Auction

Downingtown Community Education Foundation, in cooperation with the School District's art teachers, will have an Art Gala & Auction at the Dane Décor Furniture Store on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. The Gala will include displays of artwork created by students in grades K-12 as well as an art auction of items donated by talented students, teachers and local artists. A variety of mediums, including painting, ceramics, photography, glass, metal and wood, will be represented. From 5-6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5, there will be a complimentary viewing of the student art work, for the community. Children are welcome to attend. And from 6-8:30 PM on Wednesday, April 6, there will be a ticketed event, with hors d'oeuvres and drinks from local restaurants and great art to view and buy. For more details, see: www.dasd.org/domain/1510.

Book Sale

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will hold a spring book sale on Friday April 15 from 5-7:30 PM and on Saturday April 16 from 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be a wide selection of adult fiction and non-fiction, young adult and children's books, audio books, movies and music CDs. Donations of gently used children's books, adult books, DVDs, CDs and books on tape for the sale are now being accepted. No textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines, please. Donations can be dropped off at the library, through April 9 during regular business hours. For more details, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lectures at 3:30 PM on the Sundays noted: **April 17**, at Bondsville Mill Park, 1647 Bondsville Road, Bryan Thompson Nowak, Horticulturalist at Morris Arboretum, will take you on nature walk and sheds some light on our local landscape; **May 15**, Mathew Kalos will

discuss what he's uncovered in his archaeological digs in Chester County, at the East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville.

Readers on the Run

The Downingtown Library's Readers on the Run road races will be conducted on Green Street in the borough on Saturday, April 9. They will start at 8 AM with a 5K run, followed by a 1-mile race at 8:15, and then a 100-yard dash for kids at 9 AM. Entry fees for the 5K and Walk are \$25 before April 2 and \$30 on race day. The Kids' Dash costs \$10. To register online and for more info, access: www.racemenu.com/readers.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

True Story of Amelia Earhart's Disappearance

Richard (Ric) Gillespie, historian, author, executive director of TIGHAR and aeronautic researcher will present Finding Amelia - The True Story of the Earhart Disappearance in a West Caln Historical Society program at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 19 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The program is free and open to all.

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 30. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

East Brandywine Golf Outing

The 5th annual East Brandywine Fire & Police Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 9. Sponsored by and held at Applecross Country Club. There are still available opportunities for sponsors. There also will be an auction and raffle opportunities. Additional information can be found at: www.ebfc49.org.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Banquet room for rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

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

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