



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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## Where and What Is This?



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

## News items about the Downingtown area 67 years ago

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## It's the Byers Hotel in Upper Uwchlan



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

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

## The Imbrogio on Bradford Avenue

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Your friends and family can become Hist-O-Gram subscribers**

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our free Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page.

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

# **Classified Advertisements**

## **Paid ads for businesses**

### ***Vance Usher, Registered Representative***

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

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation. Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.com](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

## **Free ads for local non-profits**

### ***Join Girl Scouts***

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

### ***Teri's Run and Twilight Walk***

Dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma, the 12th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be held Friday, September 6 on Green Street in Downingtown. Times for Chip-Timed Runs & Walk: 6:30 PM, Kids Run; 7 PM, 5K Run and 1.5-Mile Walk.

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Health & Wellness Coordinator***

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

[bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org](mailto:bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org). No phone inquiries please; EOE.

### ***Lions Club Golf Outing***

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

### ***Downingtown Farmers Market***

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

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

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

### ***Savings opportunities available at DARC***

Discount Movie Tickets: \$8, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

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

### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

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

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

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