

# Merry Christmas!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

# Local news published in late January 1962

Noted below are Downingtown area news items, originally published more than 50 years ago.

**Budd Co.** announced plans to establish a research lab in the building formerly occupied by the Downingtown Iron Works, 122 Wallace Ave., in the borough. Budd planned to hire mathematicians, chemists and physicists, who would conduct experiments in optics, acoustics, magnetics, polymers and nuclear physics at the site.

Officers of the **Crestmont Farms Civic Association** in West Bradford included Howard Reinard, president; Malcolm Detterline, vice president; Mrs. Martin Schmieding, secretary-treasurer. Committee chairs were Sam Wilson, recreation; Charles Snyder and Norman Sendler, membership; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Phillips, public relations; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Shea, welcome; and Mrs. George Lord and Mrs. Malcolm Detterline, financial.

DHS girls, who modeled clothes made by 11<sup>th</sup> grade **home economics students**, were Faye McBride, Pat Robinson, Helen Archie, Arlene Emberger, Julia and Ann Asparagus, Harriet Meads, Jean Tucker, Barbara Earnshaw, Marie Miller, Christine Alpen and Lydia Belle Herr.

A new roof was installed on **Glenmoore Methodist Church**. It replaced the slate roof, which had been built 88 years ago, when the church was constructed.

Leaders elected at the **Central Presbyterian Church's** congregational meeting were Mrs. Austin Moore, Earl Foreman, Howard VanBuskirk and Charles Seibert, elders; Mrs. Gilbert Hamm, George Buller, and Walter Touchton, deacons; Richard Howell, Charles Richmond and William Barrett, trustees.

Elected to lead the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** were Milton Howe, president; Frank Lutz, vice president; Roger Irej, secretary; Rev. George Doll, assistant secretary; Thomas Miller, financial secretary; William Payne, treasurer; John Reber, chief; and Thomas Reber, assistant chief.

Honored at the Downingtown Lions Club's Fall Sports Banquet at St. Anthony's Lodge were the following **DHS athletes**: Jeff Smith, cross-country captain; Alvin Wells and Ken Mills, football co-captains, and Sam Westmoreland, end on the All Ches-Mont team.

Drivers for the engines used by the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Walter Trego, Carl, Richard and Harry Ruth, George Ruark, Robert Devaney, Calvin Kirkner and William Isinger.

An agriculture student at DHS, **Edgar Donnon** won the Grand Championship for his heifer in the Jersey yearling class at the State Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Sunday School officers at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Charles Martin, superintendent; George Taylor, first assistant; Edwin Salvesen, second assistant; Richard Ruth, financial secretary; Richard Taylor, first assistant; Lynn Spence, second assistant; Eric Bittmann, secretary; and Grace Gordon, treasurer.

Members in the cast in the DHS **Junior Class play** included Sandra Koppenhaver, Mary Hulme, Eileen Sbei, Mary Ann DiMatteo, Robert Crane, Jack Hines and Al Davis. And DHS varsity **field hockey** players who earned letters were Carol Thomas, Shirley Bowman, Mary Hulme, Katherine Kahler, Mary Ann Smedley, D-Anne Thompson, Susan Whittaker and Barbara Flinn, manager.

Members of the **Wallace Township Park and Recreation board** were Ralph Hannum, Mrs. James Templin, Kenneth Comstock, Rev. Leonard Bjorkman and Mrs. Robert Mason.

Wilmer Johnson, who recently retired as secretary of the **Brandywine Savings and Loan Association**, was honored at a banquet by the board for his 50 years of service.

Ilario Polite, proprietor of the Guernsey Cow Restaurant in Exton, was a new director of the **Downingtown National Bank**. Other directors were George Aumiller, E. D. Baldwin, Ellis

Brown, Leon Gabel, Joseph Miller, Dr. Thomas Parke, Gilbert Smedley, Richard Warren and Hastings Whiteside.

Officers elected as leaders of **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Robert Arters, Leon Faddis, Everett Henderson, Joseph McFalls, and Elmer Moore, trustees; Marvin Zynn, junior trustee.

Ernest Smedley, Minquas Fire Co., and Thomas Lee Jr., Alert Fire Co., were honored as their company's outstanding firefighters at the **Downingtown Fire Department's** annual banquet. The volunteers had to leave the banquet twice to respond to emergency calls, and then returned to the festivities.

John Giantonio, leasing agent, announced that the **Exton Meadows Shopping Center** (now known as Exton Square) would be built near the intersection of Routes 100 and 30 in Exton. Construction was to begin in August, and May 1963 was the projected completion date.

## **A great Christmas gift: A Historical Society membership**

Can't figure what to give someone for Christmas? How about a gift membership in the Downingtown Area Historical Society? Just complete the membership form, which can be accessed via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf).

## **Please support our Preserve and Protect Programs**

We're asking subscribers to our free Hist-O-Grams to help us continue to conduct our **Preserve and Protect Programs**. Noted below are reasons why we're soliciting your support.

**We continue to restore and maintain Ashbridge House**, our 304-year-old headquarters. Major projects we completed this year were rebuilding a brick stairway, and installing a new window well in the basement.

**We help local non-profit organizations.** We provide a place for meetings of Downingtown area **Girl Scout** leaders. We also conduct programs so Girls Scouts and Cub Scouts can earn history-related badges. And we did a program for the **Downingtown Woman's Club**. Also, we're going to help the Woman's Club celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.

**We constantly work on our archival collection.** Newspaper articles about local people are clipped and pasted on card stock by volunteers every week. The cards comprise our Family Files, which now include clippings on more than 8,300 people. We also continue to add to our online index of all the names in the Family Files listed on our website. And we continue to clip and paste articles about local governments, schools, businesses, churches, clubs and teams.

To help us continue to conduct these programs next year, we need you're your help. Please send a tax-deductible donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society.

Kindly make out your check to the DAHS and send it to: P. O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. If you have any questions, please call 610-269-1709 or contact us via [info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org). Thank you for your continued support.

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

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our free Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Members of Class of 1935, at DHS Alumni Assn. banquet in 1969



This clipping from the April 9, 1969 edition of the *Coatesville Record* is one of the many photos, programs, etc. from the archives of the DHS Alumni Association, which were provided to us by Ruth Ann Protivnak. We will continue publishing them periodically.

### Fire at Downingtown Stove Works was Alert's first call

When Jeff Stevens, Alert Fire Co. historian, saw the article in last week's Hist-O-Gram, about the short-lived stove manufacturer in the borough in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, he suggested that we look at the history of the fire company, <http://www.alertfire.org/history.php>.

That's the website where we learned that the 12 Downingtown men who organized the Alert Fire Co. in August 1887, had difficulty attracting members because many citizens argued that, since their properties were insured, a fire company wasn't needed.

Despite that lack of enthusiasm, those men ran a fair for several nights in September 1887. They drew a crowd to the fair by parading down Lancaster Avenue, while wearing red, flannel shirts with the letter "A" sewn on the front. And the public slowly began to support the organizers' efforts.

Proceeds from the fair and funds gathered from the annual dues, \$1 per member, enabled the fledgling fire company to purchase its first hook and ladder truck. The Rumsey and Co. of

Seneca Falls, NY, hand-drawn truck arrived on Monday, December 19, 1887. The following night, the Alerts responded to their first fire. That's when they saved the molding room of the Downingtown Stove Works by carrying buckets of water from Parke Run to the fire in the east end of the borough.

The information on the fire company's history also noted that no men who lived east of the Brandywine volunteered to join the Alert until after the fire at the Stove Works. However, three residents of the East Ward were elected to the Alert Fire Co. shortly thereafter.

## **More news from early editions of the "Blue and Gold"**

Last week's Hist-O-Gram included several items from the December 21, 1943, issue of the "Blue and Gold," which was the first edition of the newspaper published by Downingtown Junior-Senior High School students. Noted below is more news, published later in the 1943-44 school year. Copies of the newspapers were donated by Rena Francella.

By February 1944, the students' War Bond drive had reached more than \$17,000, equivalent to more than \$170,000 in today's dollars.

The senior class had a farewell party for the following classmates, who were leaving school in January to serve in the military: Mike Castaldi, Chet Harple, Jimmie McNeil and Andy Ippolito.

Officers of the Aeronautics Club were George Windolph, president; Hibbert Wells, vice president; William Valocchi, secretary; and William Lyman, treasurer.

Orders for "The Cuckoo," the title of the DHS yearbook for many years, were being taken. A deluxe edition cost \$2, and a paperbound copy was only \$1.

The Senior Service Girl Scout Troop at DHS was learning how to help nurses care for the sick, under the direction of Mrs. Edwin Baldwin. Members of the troop were Marjorie Windle, Betty Lou Hope, Edith Richmond, Irma DelPaggio, Josephine and Theresa DiBerardinis, and Jean Esworthy.

Also, the Junior Historian Club's officers were: Miles Acker, president; Bill McNeal, vice president; Peggy Weimer, recording secretary; Sara Maxton, corresponding secretary; and historians Miriam Popjoy and Grace DiLuigi.

The recently organized Junior High Knitting Club completed 10 afghans, which were sent to the Valley Forge Army Hospital, near Phoenixville. Ruth Schrupf won \$5 for knitting the most squares for the afghan.

## **Forgot to order Luminaria candle sets?**

You can still buy Luminaria candle sets and/or reusable plastic bases, to put out in front of your house on Christmas Eve. They will be available at Ashbridge House, our 304-year-old headquarters on Route 30, East Caln, next to Chick-Fil-A, from 10:30 AM to noon on Saturday, Dec. 21, and from 1-4 PM on Sunday, Dec. 22. Sets of candles and bags, and reusable plastic bases cost 75 cents each.

## **Thanks Rosy!**

Rosy Klunk donated a paper cutter to the Historical Society, after she saw a request in last week's Hist-O-Gram. The cutter will enable us to trim large card stock down to 14 X 9 sheets, on which we paste newspaper clippings for the Family Files in our Archival collection.

## It's the B & B at 4701 Edges Mill Road



Bill Schew is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the 18<sup>th</sup> Century building in the photo above as the Bed & Breakfast at 4701 Edges Mill Road, near Route 322, in Caln Township. Between 1784 and 1921, the property was handed down through two related families—Hoopes and Baugh—according to research, done by Mary L. Dugan, which was provided by the Old Caln Historical Society.

The current owners, Gail and Harvey Perry, purchased the property in 1984, when the house was in “as-is” condition. Subsequently, the Perrys restored the dilapidated, four story, nineteen-room house to its original historical condition. For interior photos of the house, see:

[www.estate.com/listings/info/4701-edges-mill-road](http://www.estate.com/listings/info/4701-edges-mill-road).

## 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.

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## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Downingtown Winter Market***

The Downingtown Winter Market will be at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM on Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19. There be NO Market on *December 26 or January 2*. 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.

### ***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)