



Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

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Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Local news in the Downingtown area in August 1945

Celebrations broke out in the Downingtown area, as they did in all the villages, towns and cities across the United States, on VJ Day, when Japan surrendered and World War II ended in August 1945. But after that spurt of exuberance, life went on in the Downingtown area as it did in the rest of the nation. Noted below are some examples of what was going on here 68 years ago, according to local newspapers.

Auditors Richard Warren, William McNamara and Ralph Kinsey reported to the **Downingtown School Board** that the borough school system's operating expenses for the 1944-45 school year totaled \$134,467. Also, the tuition rate, paid by townships for students who attended the borough schools, had been changed to \$10 per month for pupils attending the DHS Junior-Senior High School and \$6.18 for students enrolled at elementary schools in the borough.

And in **West Bradford Township**, the Cottage School on Broad Run Road was closed, and students formerly assigned to that school reassigned to the Marshallton Consolidated School. The West Bradford School District's teachers included Anna Nields, Elizabeth McIntyre and Mrs. Lewis Wickersham.

Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Women's Christian Temperance Union** were Mrs. Harry Brown, president; Mrs. Edwin Wagner, vice president; Mrs. Leonard Maust, secretary; and Mrs. Lemon Habecker, treasurer.

Former **Romansville School** students who served in the military during World War II included Carleton and Duer Cook, William and Douglas Fellenbaum, Lee, Ralph and Robert Caldwell, Robert Fenimore, Milton Hiddleston, Herbert Osborn, Norman and Elmer Smith, Raymond Sharitz, Wesley Walton and William Yetter.

John "Pepper" Petrella, former DHS and Penn State star halfback, signed a contract to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He recently was discharged from the U.S. Army Air Force, after serving in the China-Burma-India theatre.

The **Philadelphia Eagles**, whose pre-season training camp was held at West Chester State Teachers College, had a practice session at the DHS football stadium, now known as DiSerafino Stadium.

News items published in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* in February 1952.

Weldin Bicking was elected president of the **Central Presbyterian Church** choir. Other officers were Floyd Lilley, vice president; Margaret Flinn, secretary; and Mrs. Hallan Usher, treasurer.

New members of the **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary** included Mrs. William Ash, Mrs. Lewis Wilson, Mrs. Freda Seeds, Mrs. Gladys Rebar, Mrs. Teresa Christ and Mrs. Margaret March.

New councilmen at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were Landis Heller, Elmer Hemberger, Jason Dreibelbis, and Ted Heinly. Stanley Walters and James Steganius were re-elected. And Arthur Glauner and Mark Shaw were made life members.

Officers elected to lead the **Upper Uwchlan Farmers Club** were Elmer White, president; Mrs. Walter Styer, secretary; and Mary Pyle, pianist.

Officers elected by members of the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** were Harold Hannum, president; Gilbert Houck, vice president; John Shrader, secretary; William Patton, assistant secretary; Ernest Phillips, treasurer; and Clarence Miller, trustee.

It's the former Grange Hall in downtown Lyndell



Rahn Brackin is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the Grange Hall on Creek Road (Route 282) in downtown Lyndell in East Brandywine. The hall was built in 1896 by the Lyndell Christian Temperance League, and was sold to the Lyndell Grange. Currently, the building is used by the New Testament Baptist Church.

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

GEYA registration

Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association offers recreational soccer programs for kids from Pre-K through 12th grade, with no residency restrictions. Registration is open until February 28, with late registration open until March 15. Go to www.geyasoccer.org to register.

GEYA also offers the HIGH 5 Soccer Program for young athletes (5-19) with special needs. The program is designed to improve the overall fitness, self-esteem and social skills of each child. Registration is always open for HIGH 5 Soccer and there is no cost to participants. You can register now for the spring season, which begins in April, at www.geyasoccer.org.

GEYA is always looking for high school students to help out as "buddies" for the HIGH 5 soccer program. This service can count towards a high school graduation project. Contact Bill LaTorre at BillL@geyasoccer.org for more information.

DHS Alumni Assn. banquet

The banquet will be held from 5-10 PM Saturday, April 20 at Whitford Country Club. The honored guest is Ron Ditzler, former choir director from 1969 to 1977. More information can be found on the website: www.downingtowndalumni.org.

DHS West Post Prom Party

The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party will be held at the Lionville YMCA. All seniors are invited, and they don't have to go to the Prom to come to the party. This year's theme is "Passport to the World." The YMCA will be transformed into a night filled with fun and activities, including the indoor pool, using exciting places to tour throughout the world, while providing a safe and fun environment for all. Last year's event drew over 250 seniors and their guests.

The event is coordinated and funded by parents and members of the community. All funds that are raised will be used for the event and are utilized in securing activities, games, food and prizes.

Volunteers are needed for all committees, and parents of students in all grade levels are encouraged to get involved. Please do not wait until your child is a senior to get involved. Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held in Room 139 at DHS West on March 19, April 16 and May 14.

Please check out the P3 website: www.dwestpostprom.com for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

Savings opportunities available at DARC

Discount Movie Tickets: \$7.50, 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, 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 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.

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

Info@downingtowndareahistoricalssociety.org.