



Downington Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No. 2

January 10, 2013

What and Where 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@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

School issues dominated local news in June 1945

Although the war against Japan grabbed much of the attention in June 1945, many of the news stories published in local papers in the early weeks of that month focused on local school issues:

You recognize that **DHS** was a comparatively small high school in Chester County in 1945, when you see that only 86 students graduated from DHS that year, while there were 244 students in Coatesville's graduating class the same year.

And 13 of the graduates were already serving in the military. The only graduate on active duty who was able to attend the school's 63rd commencement exercises was Eugene Mittel. Those who were unable to attend the graduation included: Bruce Bird, George Baker, George Cain, Francis Celii, Emerson Glauner, Richard Irely, John Palmer, Robert Moore, Paul Moran, Allan Myers, John Sheehan and Jonathan Windle.

Class officers were Charles Forte, president; William Worrall, vice president; Janet Knauer, secretary; and Jane Kline, treasurer.

Also reflective of the school district's enrollment 68 years ago, 55 of the graduates were borough residents, while the rest of the graduates resided the following rural townships: East Brandywine, nine; Wallace and West Pikeland, six each; Caln, four; Upper Uwchlan and West Bradford, two each; East Bradford and Uwchlan, one each. Two Uwchlan residents graduated from West Chester High School that year.

The 34 students at the **Mount Airy School** in Uwchlan, taught by Mrs. William Yonkers, had a busy school year, especially in their efforts to support the war effort. They collected 1,080 pounds of paper, 1,115 tin cans, and 5 bags of milkweed pods (Children were enlisted to collect thousands of pounds of milkweed pods, which were sent to Petoskey, Mich., where a processing plant turned the floss into filling for life preservers).

They also collected books, comic books and detective magazines, which were sent to servicemen, and they wrote letters to GIs serving in China, France, Germany and the U.S. The seven pupils who made the honor roll were Judy Swarner, James Linderman, Henry Hine, Paul Hoffecker, Dorothy Walton, Anna Dinsdale and Billy Ingram.

And 80 people attended **Windsor School's** end-of-term picnic in Upper Uwchlan. Winners in games were: Sue, Billy and Barbara Edwards, Barbara Trego, Norman Gottier, Larry Ladley, Mrs. Ray Woodland, Alan Dewees, Lena Frame, Goldie Jane Hubbard and Shirley Wertz.

A picnic and a musical program were held on the last day at the **Font School**, Upper Uwchlan. They included numbers sung by John Martin, Mary Margaret and Marjorie Henley, Shirley Wenger, Betty Peck, Barbara Trego and Carol Matheny. Eighth graders Earl Henley and Harry Painter passed their final exams, and Horace Smith received a reward for perfect attendance. And with the close of the school term, Mrs. Hanna Jane Ash., who was completing 20 years of teaching at Font, revealed that she was not returning to the school in September.

The 12 eighth graders who graduated from **Marshallton School** were Harvey Young, Ruth Romig, Horace Wilson, Henry Baldwin, Mary Wickersham, John Sellers, Mary Ann Cann, Arnold Haebecker, Thelma Pugh, Ralph Bane, Mary Jane Miley, Harvey Young and Edith Ann Martin.

Girls who placed in competitions at the school's picnic included: Jean Romig, Betty Bittle, Virginia English, Betty Whiteman, Mary Jane Place, Margaret Newman, Frances

Henck and Caroline Nixon. Boys who were game winners were: Elmer Fredd, Earle Young, Fred Frame, Floyd D’Ginto, Jiggs Baldwin and Dan Place.

It’s Bethel AME Church



Tracey Jones was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of part of the front of Bethel AME Church, 221 Prospect Avenue in the Johnstown section of Downingtown. The whole front of the church is shown in the photo below.

After briefly renting a facility on Bradford Avenue, the congregation purchased land on Prospect Avenue in 1889, where the church would be erected after the cornerstone was laid there on November 13, 1892, according to Jane Davidson’s *A History of Downingtown*. The board of trustees who guided the building project included: Thomas Flowers, Isaac Trowery, Henry Johnson, Clayborn Gladman and Frederick Wilson.



The front of Bethel AME Church at 221 Prospect Avenue in Downingtown.

Downingtown area news 61 years ago

The following news items were published in *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper, in January 1952.

Newly elected officers of **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, were: Armand Taraschi, president; Michael Mento, vice president; Benny DelPaggio, secretary; and George Ciarlone, treasurer.

DHS field hockey players who earned letters were: Mary Jane Bird, captain, Joan Pollock, Edith Forte, B.L. Robinson, Mary Lou Foreman, Patsy Piersol, Barbara Seibert, Faye Stauffer, Dottie Kipp, Theresa Ippolito, and Betty Menna, manager.

Officers of the **Minquas Fire Co. Auxiliary** included: Mrs. Nathan Mercer, president; Mrs. Reba Burroughs, vice president; Mrs. Norman Howe, chaplain; Mrs. Carroll Lewis, recording secretary; Mrs. Warren Showalter, financial secretary; and Mrs. Paul Miller, treasurer.

Joseph Huggins was elected president of the **Downingtown Library**. Other officers were: Theodore Griffith, vice president; Mrs. Mary Bradbury Brown, treasurer; and Mrs. George Fisher, secretary.

Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club's** annual Husband's Night program were Mrs. William Keen, Mrs. Earl Messner, Mrs. Floyd Lilley, Mrs. Alfonso Travaglini, Mrs. Clark Reiter, Mrs. Clarence Beam, Mrs. Stephen Lucas, Mrs. H.A. Moore and Mrs. Harry Kalbitzer.

East Ward Third Graders in 1951



Ron Tipton sent us this photo of his third grade class at East Ward School in 1951, taught by the revered Elizabeth Ezra. His classmates included: first row, Duer Smedley, Bobby Ceulers, Helen Burkhardt, Betty Lou Woodward, Jeannie Bicking, Iva Darlington, Bill Brookover, Judy Wagner, Ralph McComsey, Francis Trego; second row, Billy Null, Doris Trego, Judy Baldwin, Teddy Miller, Lillian Detterline, Toni Yost, Marie DiFernando, Donald Murphy, Stuart Miesel; third row, Mary Jane Chudleigh, Larry Meredith, Timmy Mahan, Blaine Stong, Patty Zittle, Donna Lee Detweiler, Bonnie Walton, Margaret West, Ron Tipton; fourth row, Miss Elizabeth Ezra, David Fidler, Jack Swarner, Denny Myers and Frank Marcocci. **We'd like to publish more group (including sports teams, Scout troops, as well school classes) photos like this, as long as you can also provide the names of those in the photo.**

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

DHS West Post Prom Party

The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party (P3) 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 Post Prom 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 Jan.15, Feb. 19, 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@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.