



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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## What and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, partially shown in the photo above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. The photo was taken by Mike Hoover. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## More local news items published in June 1945

The following items appeared in local newspapers more than 67 years ago:

By over-subscribing its \$33,000 quota by more than \$6,000, **East Brandywine Township** outpaced the borough and six other neighboring townships in the Seventh War Bond Drive.

And the **Roosevelt Theatre** on Brandywine Avenue in the borough was offering free admission to movies to persons who bought an extra War Bond at Downingtown National Bank or the Post Office booth in the lobby of the theatre.

**Editor's note: War Bonds were used to finance the U.S. military efforts during World War II. They were sold for as little as \$18.75 and matured in 10 years, at which time the federal government paid the bondholder \$25. Large denominations of between \$50 and \$1000 were also available. For those who found it difficult to purchase an entire bond at once, 10 cent savings stamps could be purchased and collected in Treasury approved stamp albums until the recipient had accumulated enough stamps for a bond purchase. Many school children bought these stamps. Over the course of the war, 85 million Americans purchased approximately \$185.7 billion of bonds.**

Elected to serve as officers of the **American Legion Auxiliary** were: Mrs. Paul Dague, president; Mrs. Leroy Helms, first vice president; Mrs. Leonard Maust, second vice president; Mrs. John Fisher, treasurer; Esther Williams, recording secretary; and Anna Dougherty, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Fisher announced that Auxiliary members had been on duty at their booth every night at the Roosevelt Theatre, selling War Bonds and Stamps.

World War II also had an impact on the **YMCA Camp** in West Bradford, just below Downingtown's southern border. Due to the rationing of many types of food during the war, E. W. Barnes, the camp's executive director, continued to be concerned about the number of camping applications that could be accepted. A new feature planned for the month of August was an All-American Inter-Racial camping session for 150 girls between the ages of 10 and 16.

**Editor's Note: See [www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/events/rationing.htm](http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/events/rationing.htm) and [www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/ration\\_items.htm](http://www.ameshistoricalsociety.org/exhibits/ration_items.htm) for more info about food and other types of rationing during World War II.**

Coach Vince Daher's **DHS baseball team** won the Section Three championship in a Suburban Conference playoff game against Pottstown, when Charlie Forte hit a single with the bases loaded in the eighth inning. Whippet pitcher Rat Barrow held the Trojans to four hits.

Downingtown businessmen recognized members of the team by treating them to a dinner at the Mansion House in West Chester and a movie at the Warner Theatre afterwards. The championship trophy was presented to co-captains Jack Lyons, Dominic DiEugenio and Forte on a program broadcasted by Philadelphia radio station WIBG.

Daher and 17 members of the team also were guests at a dinner-meeting of the **Downingtown Lions Club**.

Newly elected officers of the **Lions Club** were Richard Burroughs, president; Dr. Harlan Sharp, first vice president; Charles Emery, second vice president; Herbert Bowersock, third vice president; Joseph Matthewson, treasurer; and Ralph Kinsey, secretary.

And new officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Charles Ezra, president; Mrs. John Forbes, vice president; Mrs. George Aumiller, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Brookover, corresponding secretary; and Emily Lewis, Treasurer.

Elected to lead the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown were Sara Davis, senior regent; Helen Babb, junior regent; Mary Babb, chaplain; Mary Algiers, recorder; Carrie Francella, treasurer; Mary Hilton, graduate regent; Dorothy McClure, guide; Peggy Dowlin, assistant guide; Anna Baldwin, sentinel; and Beatrice Hashinger, pianist.

And by buying \$5,000 more War Bonds, the **Downingtown Moose Lodge's** total had reached \$21,000.

## Part of this home on Route 322 was a tollhouse



Rahn Brackin was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the residence at 4809 Horseshoe Pike, located on the east side of Route 322 a short distance above the Route 30 Bypass. Part of the home once was a tollhouse, which dates back to the late 1780s.

According to the owner, Dr. Nathan Ensmenger, a University of Indiana (Bloomington) professor, the most striking evidence of the tollhouse can be seen in the basement, under the rear of the current house, which was constructed in 1837. The evidence shows that the tollhouse's structure was supported by a dry-laid foundation of stone and a series of hand-hewn logs, some of which still have their original bark.

The property is for sale, and contemporary photos and detailed information about it can be accessed at [www.4809horseshoepike.com](http://www.4809horseshoepike.com).

## **Cub Scouts toured Ashbridge House**

The Historical Society hosted members of Den 5, Cub Scout Pack 2, sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church, on Saturday January 12. Under the leadership of their leader, Doug Bucklin, the Cubs and their fathers toured Ashbridge House, our 304-year-old headquarters. And to comply with the requirements of their rank, the boys also worked with artifacts to learn how people lived in a different age. Fun was had by the scouts, their parents, and our volunteer archivist, Mrs. Carol Grigson.

Anyone who is involved with a Scout group, who wishes to have a tour of Ashbridge House or enjoy a program related to local history, is encouraged to call Mrs. Grigson, 610-269-1709. We can tailor the program to meet the requirements of the rank trying to be achieved.

## **Coming events & activities in Downingtown area**

### ***DHS Alumni Assn. banquet***

The banquet will be held from 5-7 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.downingtowntalumni.org](http://www.downingtowntalumni.org).

### ***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](http://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](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).

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**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](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).**