



## 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 to correctly identify the building shown above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Hot Downingtown area news 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in February 1946.

**Charles Emery** was named supervising principal (school superintendent) by the Downingtown School Board, after Dr. Charles Chaffee resigned from that position. Chaffee left Downingtown to become superintendent of the public school system in Stratford, Conn, an affluent suburb 45 miles north of New York City. He had been supervising principal in Downingtown for nine years.

Emery started his career in education when he was hired as a teacher at West Ward Elementary School in Downingtown in 1932. The following year, he was appointed

principal at West Ward. After serving as principal of the Easttown Consolidated School in Berwyn for two years, Emery returned to Downingtown in 1943, as principal of the Junior-Senior High School

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Building and Loan Association** were Joseph Philips, president; Edgar Griffith, first vice president; George Foreman, second vice president; Chandler Roberts, secretary; Joseph Miller, treasurer; and Asa Pannebaker, solicitor, Directors elected included George Perry, Park Plank, Ray Sheeler, Howard Baldwin, Robert Ash, Lewis Downing, Sherman Kirkpatrick, Raymond Greenleaf, Edwin Baldwin and John Fisher.

**Romig Electronic Service**--which specialized in repairing radios, washers, irons, lamps, toasters and heaters--opened its new business at 121 Washington Ave., Downingtown, which had been the site of the local Ration Board during WW II and is where Sam's Pizza shop is now located.

The **Glenmoore Fire Co.** had a turkey dinner, prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary, for local returning servicemen. Following the dinner, there was vocal entertainment by Norman Charles, Granville McCardell, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mercer, Jack Pannebaker, Elmer Dunwoody, and Doris and Jean Van Meter.

DHS students who spoke on juvenile delinquency at a meeting of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dave Hutson, Antoinette Petrella, Margaret Roop, George Windolph, Eileen Wharry and Dave McCardell. And DHS art teacher Mary Mahan passed around paper, scissors, paste and ribbons, so she could instruct the Lions on how to make their own Valentine cards.

**Girl Scout Troop 54**, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co., had a Valentine's Dance at the fire hall. Music was provided by Frank Natalie's orchestra.

**Cub Pack 52 of Marshallton** had a birthday party for Cubs Gerald Powell, Robert Sellers and Myrle English.

Elected as officers of the Women's Missionary Society of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Mrs. Rodney Russell, president; Mrs. Clarence Dorsey, vice president; Mrs. Norman Howe, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Harvey, treasurer.

Downingtown's Charles Moran **American Legion Post**, which had 151 members at the time, announced plans to buy a Post home.

Downingtown Junior High's basketball team ended its 18-game winning streak (stretching back into the 1944-45 season) when Coach Don White's squad lost to Pottstown. Stars on the team were Pete and Bill Hayes, and Sonny Milano.

## **Dorlan's Mills had a Post Office for 18 years**

Although many hamlets in the U.S. make a valiant effort today to keep their Post Office, despite a declining population, that didn't happen in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Dorlan's Mills, in Upper Uwchlan Township.

Apparently, the Post Office in Dorlan's Mills was a family affair, because Thomas Dorlan was appointed the first postmaster in 1870, and the postal unit was located in the paper mill, owned and operated by his father, James Dorlan.

According to an article in the February 26, 1946 edition of the *Daily Local News*, Thomas Dorlan's brother, Samuel, took over in 1872, until 1877, when Henry Barrett took over the commission for six years and moved the office into his house. In 1883,

Samuel Dorlan gave it another shot for three years, before he resigned and shut down the tiny Post Office in July 1886 because little business was done there. However, many Dorlan's Mills residents fought the closure, and the Post Office was re-opened in August 1886. But that arrangement only lasted about 18 months; the Post Office was permanently closed in 1888.

## **It's at 30 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown**



Rahn Brackin was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the photo above of the building at 30 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown. It is currently the first structure west of the Downingtown Police Station. In recent years, it has been the site of several commercial enterprises on the first floor. The upper floors are apartments. Gene Martin, DHS Class of 1965 and now a retired teacher living in New Hampshire, provided the photo.

## **Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area**

### ***Concerts in the Park Series***

The concert series continues in Kerr Park, Downingtown, on Sunday, July 21, when Midnight Social plays from 5 PM - 7 PM. More information is available at:

[www.downingtowncountypa.com](http://www.downingtowncountypa.com)

### ***Red Cross Blood Drive***

The blood drive will be conducted from 2 PM – 7 PM Wednesday, July 31 in the Annex Building, behind Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Here's a link to more information and registration: [Downingtown Borough Blood Drive](#)

### ***Downingtown Concerts in the Park Series***

The concert series continues in Kerr Park on Sunday, July 21 when Midnight Social plays from 5 PM–7 PM. More information is available at:

[www.downingtownconcerts.com](http://www.downingtownconcerts.com)

### ***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.

The market will also feature weekly musical guests and activities for children. 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).

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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, contact us at:**

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)