



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 4, No.30

July 25, 2013

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

# Downingtown area news in August 1961

The items noted below were originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Amphibious Order of Frogs** dinner was held at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown. Leaders of the organization were Arthur Petrella, bull rama; Attilio Sciaretta, president; Ben Valocchi, secretary; Clifton Walton; Anthony DiGiovantonio; John Julian; Joe Leto; Anthony Gazzo; Oscar DiBerardinis; Harry Cole; Armand Taraschi and Vincent DiEulis.

The bell, which had been in the belfry of the original **Lionville School** since 1859, was refurbished by Dr. Seth Pope, a member of the Uwchlan School Board. Then the bell was recently placed in the new Lionville Elementary School.

Members of the team that won the scavenger hunt at the **East Ward playground** were John Johnson, Caroline Kline, Bill Klunk, Tom Hipple and Louis Mascherino.

Winners in the bike show at the **Alert Fire Hall** playground, Downingtown, were Ceil Tremul, first; Jeanne Keen, second; and Brenda Murphy, third. Marcella Echoff had the most unusual bike, and Susan Getty won the most decorated bike competition.

The **Downingtown Optimist Club** had a picnic for all the youngsters who participated in the summer playground program. They consumed over 700 hot dogs and 20 watermelons.

Downingtown Borough Council agreed to accept a deal, whereby the **Philadelphia Electric Co.** would install new street lights, without overhead wiring, on Lancaster Avenue, between Manor Avenue and Green Street, as well as other streets near Center Square. The borough only had to pay \$3,600 toward the \$90,000 project. The borough also paid \$100 for each of the new, ornamental light standards.

And plans for a **residential community and a medical center**, on 37 acres near the intersection of Routes 30 and 113 in Downingtown, were presented to Borough Council. The plan called for 27 single homes, ranging in price from \$22,000 to \$28,000, and 135 two-bedroom apartment units.

Five merchants at the **Downingtown Farmers Market**, who sold goods on Sunday, were cited by Chester County detectives for Blue Law violations. The citations were turned over to Samuel Corliss, East Caln Justice of the Peace.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from Glenmoore who completed the **Red Cross Life Saving** program were Miriam Ezrah, Peggy Funk, Elwood March, Mia Spies and Ann Galt.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 2**, Downingtown, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe, were David Landis, Jimmy and Peter Duca, Larry Nuse, Richard Stine, Edward Dazio, James Graf, John McGuckin and Michael Parlett. The troop's committee included John Brownstein, Lambert McGuckin, Emery Langham, Joseph Newlin, Earl Shirk, Fred Gates and John Scarborough.

Officers of the **Downingtown Elementary Parents Club** were Mrs. Charles Menas, president; Mrs. Kenneth McCardell, vice president; Mrs. Ira Buckwalter, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Robert Flagg, recording secretary; and Mrs. Robert Forrest, treasurer.

The opening of **Beaver Creek School** in Downingtown was the highlight of the beginning of the 1961-62 school year. The new school had 550 students from the borough and parts of East Caln, West Bradford and Uwchlan, including all sixth graders in the Downingtown Joint Elementary District. The cost of constructing the school was \$700,000.

The eighth annual **West Bradford Fire Co. Fair** was held on the grounds of the Marshallton School. The committee for the week-long fair included Edwin Hill, Ernest Fling, James Anderson, Milton Durnall, James Knapp, Earl Edwards, George Fling and Harry Perdue.

Entertainers at the fair were Warren Mercer and his Royal Ramblers, the Lukens Steel Band and Little Nick and His Lords.

The **Broad Run Midget Car Races** opened in West Bradford with a new track and several new drivers. Twenty drivers were expected to be competing on Labor Day.

Members of the **Pickering Stitches 4-H Club** in Chester Springs included Pam and Donna Twaddell, Debbie Seiple, Kathleen Johnson, Jan Fuhr, Jackie West, Carolyn Mill, Joy Henssler, Cynthia Myer, Marsha and Kay Dawson, and Judy Sload.

Lydia Herr of Lionville was one of the 130 farm girls and boys in Pennsylvania who won an all-expense paid trip to Juniata College to study **farm cooperatives**. Walter Jankowski, Chester Springs; Elizabeth Herr, Lionville; and Robert Ruark, Lionville; also participated in the program sponsored by the Chester-Delaware Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

About 200 people attended the **Downingtown Rotary Club's** annual clambake, held at the home of Dr. James McCahon on Route 30. Members of the clambake committee were Ralph Lineinger, Dr. McCahon, Herbert Ash, Everett Griffith, William Kline and William Balderson.

## **We learned about some of the farm's history**



We ran this photo of a 1947 enamel sign, which was for sale on eBay, in the June 6 Hist-O-Gram, with hopes of determining where the Seven Springs Tree Farm was located. Well, we finally got part of the story, when we learned from Scott Piersol, manager of East Brandywine Township, that the 30-acre farm was located along Creek Road (Route 282), near the intersection of Township Road. And Don Greenleaf, retired Downingtown borough manager, informed us that Jack Stutt, a DuPont executive, had purchased the property sometime before WW II. Also, Dan Arters of East Brandywine recalled that Stutt started transforming the farm into the Seven Springs Water Co. in the late 1940s, when he hired three men to hand-dig troughs from each of the farm's seven springs to a processing and bottling plant he had built on the property.

Arters, who used to haul the bottled spring water to commercial accounts in Philadelphia in the early 1950s, claims Stutt was a pioneer in the bottled water business.

And according to Barbara Paul's *History of East Brandywine*, a 1957 newspaper ad welcomed people to "fill as many jugs as you wish for 25 cents."

Stutt sold the property and the bottling operation in 1961, but we haven't been able to determine who bought it then. However, several people told us that the place was the site of a major gambling operation, which was raided by the state police in the 1960s.

Also, a 1987 article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that, after the business was sold to the Wissahickon Water Co. around 1980, the system was upgraded so the spring water was funneled, via underground pipes under Creek Road, into the plant's three fiberglass tanks, each with a capacity of 12,000 gallons. Then the water was purified and passed into the bottling room, where six employees finished the process. The water company is no longer operated at the site.

*(Editor's Note: We'd loved to have more info on this topic.)*

## No one identified the site in this photo



We'll run this photo at another time. Hint: The site isn't in Uwchlan Twp., as several people thought.

## Classified Advertisements

### 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.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.com](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335

# Free ads for local non-profits

## ***Health & Wellness Coordinator***

Needed for a busy, non-profit senior adult activity center in Downingtown. Ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter who enjoys working independently and as a member of a team, and will have a passion for working with the elderly. Candidate will ideally hold certification to instruct group exercise, though training can be provided. Position is part-time (28 hours per week). Position requires round-trip travel to and from Elverson, twice weekly; transportation is required. Salary range is \$12.54 - \$15.35 per hour; commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should submit their resume and salary requirements via email to:

[bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org](mailto:bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org). No phone inquiries please; EOE.

## ***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](#)

## ***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: [JPC Cheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPC Cheryl@verizon.net).

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**Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downtown Area Historical Society. If you want to become a subscriber, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website:**

**[www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org).**

**We won't share or sell any email addresses. And if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: [Info@downtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downtownareahistoricalsociety.org)**