



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtowndareahistoricalsociety.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. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant.

Please send your responses to: Info@downtowndareahistoricalsociety.org.

Hot local news in July 1977

Here's what was going on in the Downingtown area 36 years ago, according to articles in the *East Branch Citizen*, a weekly newspaper published at that time:

Mrs. Betty Prior, Mrs. Pat Domenick and Mrs. Helen Heugel were co-directors of the Vacation Bible School at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown. Members of the teaching staff included Betty Hayes, Carol Leffler, Sara Perkins, Elaine Bandel, Donna Cattell, and Diana Woodruff.

Local **Boy Scouts** who went on a 214-mile wilderness camping trip at the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, NM, were Bill Golding, Tim Lang, David Lewis, Tom Reber, J. Nintz, Mark Kottmeyer, Craig Artz, Steve Gates, Bill Painter, Brian Harrop and John Barrington. John Miller was their adult leader.

Recent **property transfers** included: 24 Hastings Ct., East Brandywine, \$32,000; 11 Christine Dr., Upper Uwchlan, \$59,440; 1019 Ericson Dr., West Bradford, \$54,990; 400 Longwood Dr., Uwchlan, \$60,500; 220 Hunt Ave., Downingtown, \$45,950; and 131 Woodland Ct., East Caln, \$61,000.

The staff at **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School included Eileen Fetterman, Catherine Trimble, Alice Shoemaker, Jennie Lowery, Mildred Geringer, Brenda Johnson, Dorothy Perdue, Marty Shupard, Jane Hill, Joan Mackin, Melody Herr, Nancy Heriegel, Brenda McFarland, Debbie Kane, Pat Tuting, Richard Purcell and Holy Marshall.

Local students who graduated from **Drexel University** were Kenneth Feldman, Constance Matthews, Leona Petri, John Recchiuti and Bruce Shipley.

Joe Cincotta, Tom Stretch and John Stalder, members of Boy Scout Troop 83, Lionville, were installed as Eagle Scouts.

Winners of a peanut hunt at the **Beaver Creek playground**, supervised by Susan Noyes and Diane DiMartin, were Cheryl Bacon, Julie Keeny, Teresa Burns and Gracy Talley. Also, kickball stars at the **Lionville playground** were Ricky Kaluza, Fred Strong, Jeff Moore, Scott Thompson, Lisa Lynch, Patty Welch, Brendan McCahon and Shawn Traynor.

Recently elected officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were JoAnn Ogborn, president; Marcia McQueen, first vice president; Sue McDermott, second vice president; Kathy Deisinger, corresponding secretary; Kathy Doyle, recording secretary; and Shirley Pinola, treasurer.

New records were set by Rob Ungvary and Bill Pitkin of **Pennypacker Swim Club**, and Michele Adams and Chris McShane of **St. Anthony's swim team** as Pennypacker beat St. Anthony's.

Mary Ann Crawford, former All-American for national champion **Immaculata's Mighty Macs**, supervised the Downingtown's girls' basketball program.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League** all star team were Gary Francella, Brad Novak, Tom McCool, Mike Melvin, Mike McShane, Tom Dooley, Rick Smith, Tom Sheridan, Andy Mento, Bob Mahan, Jeff Williams, Glen Harman, Bill Snyder, Penn Frey and Marc Ruggiano.

The Southeast National Bank team won the **Downingtown Girls Softball League**. Members of the team were Cheryl Caridi, Janet Gbur, Tracy Keen, Danine DiBernardi, Sherri Clayton, Terry Wombough, Sheila Lyons, Lisa O'Neill, Shelley Steele, Laurie Geschwindt, Sue Hipple and Robin Sommers. They were coached by Mary Kay Conahan and Shirley O'Neill.

More info on 218 Brandywine Avenue



The photo of 218 Brandywine Ave. in Downingtown--shown above and taken by Mike Dunn-- was the What & Where Is This? picture, published in a recent Hist-O-Gram. We recently talked to Patti Dukeman Henry, who lived in the house from 1951 until about 1968, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Dukeman, and her grandmother, Mary Dukeman. Her grandmother sold the house about 45 years ago to the MacDonald family, who operated an antique shop in the barn behind the house. Chris Wrenn, the current owner who bought the place in 1990, converted the barn into an apartment. Patti, now retired from DOPACO, resides in Morgantown with her husband Bob.

It's the MacFarland House in East Brandywine



Peter Chim is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo, taken by Mike Dunn, of the MacFarland House on North Buck Road, near the intersection of Buck Road, in Easy Brandywine.

The original part of the house was built before 1800 on farmland granted by William Penn to a member of the MacFarland family in 1747. Originally, the farm stretched down to Route 322. Although several structures on the property and land were sold off over the years, the estate still includes other buildings besides the house, including a barn, a tenant house and the former Buck School.

Soon after Col. Charles W. MacFarland inherited the property in 1937, he initiated a restoration project, which included additions to the house. The project was continued for several decades but it was never totally completed before MacFarland died in 1991. Most of the project was done under the guidance of architect R. Brognard Okie, who was well known in the Delaware Valley for his new Colonial Revival houses, as well as restoring 18th Century buildings. When R. Brognard Okie died in 1945, the project was taken over by his son, Charles T. Okie.

A master's thesis on the house was done in 1998 by Rebecca A. Geist, while she was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to a history of the house, the thesis includes many photos and detailed drawings related to the project. You can access the thesis at: <http://archive.org/stream/macfarlanhousesu00geis#page/n5/mode/2up>

You deserve to spend a quiet afternoon at the Clip Joint

We hope you have a wonderful Fourth of July weekend. However, we suspect you'll be exhausted after all that grilling and chilling. That's why you deserve to spend a quiet afternoon (from 1-4 PM, but you can come and go as you please) on Sunday, July 7 at the Historical Society's Ashbridge House on Route 30 in East Caln. There's lots of parking available in the Chick-Fil-A lot next door.

You'll discover that clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection can be sooo soothing.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

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.

Offerings include: local fruits and vegetables; pasture raised meats (beef, pork, lamb, veal) and poultry, fresh eggs; dairy products, including cheeses; whole grain breads and other baked goods; handmade pasta and sauce; honey and maple syrup; small-batch frozen desserts; artisan chocolates; hummus and salsa; jams and jellies; roasted coffee and hand-blended teas; fresh ground nut butters; field grown flowers; handmade soap; and doggie treats.

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, 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, contact us at:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org