



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news items published in January 1946

Here are some items, which were originally published in Downingtown area papers 67 years ago.

- Jackie Welsh, who had starred on the DHS and **University of Pennsylvania** football teams, joined George Munger's Penn staff as a backfield coach, following his discharge from the Navy after World War II.

But when Welsh first enrolled at Downingtown High School, he became a male cheerleader for one season, and not a football player. Shortly, however, that arrangement changed and he became one of the stars on Coach Francis Tweed's Whippet football team. Then, he played under Coach George Munger, when Penn had powerhouse teams that

played schools like Michigan and Penn State, and the Quakers attracted capacity crowds to Franklin Field. He also lettered in basketball and track (pole vault) at Penn.

In just his third game at Penn, Welsh intercepted four passes in one game, which is still a Penn record 73 years later. Several weeks later, he picked off a pass and returned it 76 yards for a TD in a 20-0 win over Navy (back when the military academy teams were nationally ranked). For his career, Welsh picked off 13 passes, just one short of the school record established by All American Chuck Bednarik. He was recognized as Penn's most outstanding athlete when he graduated in 1943.

- Newly elected officers of the Sunday School at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Sherman Kirkpatrick, president; Everett Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Harmon Rogers, secretary; Emmett Gordon, treasurer; Mrs. George Peck, superintendent; William Whitely, assistant superintendent; Sara Maxton, pianist; Arlene Davis, first assistant pianist; and Anna Dewees, second assistant pianist.
- Installed as officers of the **Marshallton Grange** were Harry Perdue, master; Gilbert Gray, overseer; Esther Hill, lecturer; John Romig, steward; Albert Anderson, treasurer; and Mary Gibson, chaplain.
- Ray Barrow "ran wild," as he scored 27 points and the **DHS basketball team** avenged an earlier loss to St. Agnes High School, West Chester, by beating the Stags 44-29.
- Newly installed officers of the **Lyndell Grange** were: Samuel Lantz, master; Edward Towson, overseer; Sarah Abel, lecturer; John McCausland, steward; Ruth Moore, chaplain; Warren Marshall, treasurer; and Julia Peck, secretary.
- **Betty Bird**, a student at Uwchlan Township's Mount Airy School, received a copy of the Japanese surrender documents from the U.S. Treasury Department in commemoration of the end of WW II because she had sold so many E Bonds.
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gottier received a posthumous citation and Bronze Star for their son, **Cpl. Alvin Gottier**, who was killed in action in Italy. The Gottiers had three other sons—Ernest, Theodore and Maurice—who also served in WW II.
- The **Brandywine Building and Loan Association** of Downingtown elected to the following officers: Arthur Glauner, president; F.S. McDonald, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; and Richard Warren, treasurer.
- Six-year-old **Bobby McClure** woke up his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McClure, when he started coughing and choking from the smoke caused by a chimney fire in their home at 319 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown. Downingtown firemen put out the fire, which caused about \$1,000 worth damage.
- Deceased members of the **Downingtown Fire Department** were honored at the annual memorial service, held at First Baptist Church. Those from the Alert Fire Co. who died in the past year were Dominic Marinelli, Harry Harvey, Horace Guest, Jacob Edge, Herbert Pritchard and Robert Osborne. Members of the Minquas Fire Co., who had passed, were Philip Burns and Joseph Miller. And members of the Alert Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary who had died were Mrs. Merritt Ibaugh, Mrs. John Bareford and Mrs. Gerald Lyons.
- **Helen Hess Howe**, 350 Washington Ave., Downingtown, was nearing the end of her tour with a USO Camp Show unit in Europe. Most recently she had appeared in Brussels, Belgium with the Broadway cast of "Personal Appearances." She also toured with the cast at U.S. military bases in Italy and France. And she was slated to be in England for two weeks. In addition to playing on the New York stage for five years before she went on the USO tour, she had appeared in several movies.

BELL PHONE 50

ATLANTIC ICE MANUFACTURING CO.

DEALERS IN
COAL AND ICE

DOWNINGTOWN, PA.,

June 29 19 *43*

Robert M. Hall

30 Lancaster Ave.

Dgtn, Pa.

BALANCE

2 ton Chestnut @ 12.14 = \$ 24.28

ATLANTIC ICE MFG. CO.



This is one of the items that Gene Martin, who lived at 30 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown when he graduated from DHS in 1965, recently donated to the Historical Society.

Obviously, the Atlantic Ice Manufacturing Co., sold coal as well as ice in 1943. In an earlier part of the 20th Century, the firm was located on Brandywine Avenue in the Borough, according to Jane Davidson's *History of Downingtown*. If you know anything about the company, or why coal was used to heat most homes in the first half of the 20th Century, please tell us about it via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

It's the Downingtown Country Club



Rahn Brackin is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo (taken by Mike Dunn), as the clubhouse at the Downingtown Country Club in East Caln. For many years, the house was part of the Downingtown Inn complex, owned by Tabas Enterprises. In the early 20th Century, it was the home of several generations of the J. Gibson McIlvain family, which ran the Downingtown Paper Co. until the firm was sold to Sonoco in 1968.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

Community Festival at St. Joe's

Every night will be Family Night at the Community Festival at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, on Manor Avenue in Downingtown, from 6-10 PM Tuesday, June 18 until Saturday, June 22. In addition to an opportunity to going on rides all night long for \$20, attractions include: food, bingo, live music, a beer garden, a bake sale and a cheer wheel. And there will be tours of the new church.

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 (484-954-2273).

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