



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org

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Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

Downingtown area news in September 1945

Noted below are items from local newspapers, which attracted the attention of Downingtown area residents in September 1945.

The required number of borough citizens signed petitions, requesting that **movies could be shown in the Roosevelt Theatre on Sundays**. As a result, the issue would be on the ballot in the November election.

West Chester residents also were slated to vote on the same issue in November. However, a slim margin of voters in the county seat opposed movies on Sundays in an election several years ago.

Officers of the Hi-Y at **Mount Airy School** (whose enrollment was 33) Uwchlan Township were Charles Long, president; Robert Keeseey, vice president; Dorothy Ingram, secretary; Anna Graybill, assistant secretary; and Anna Dinsdale, treasurer.

Leland Wilson, Jr., a graduate of DHS and Lehigh University, played an “important part” in the **development of the atomic bombs**, which were dropped in Japan several months ago.

Dr. Charles Chaffee, supervising principal of Downingtown School, reported that there were 491 students in the borough elementary schools and 560 in the Junior-Senior High School. He also noted that the cafeteria at the Junior-Senior High School had been open for the first time, and **285 hot lunches** were served.

The DHS Athletic Association decided not to host **night football games** this season because two opponents—Phoenixville and Eddystone—said they didn’t want their teams playing games under the lights. The association hoped the idea of night games would be more acceptable during the 1946 season.

Former vice president Arthur Glauner was elected president of the **Brandywine Building and Loan Association**, following the death of Joseph Miller, who had served as president for many years. Samuel McDonald, a director, was elected vice president, and Samuel Charles took Glauner’s seat on the board of directors.

Pfc. Samuel Hopkins, Whitford, was awarded a **Silver Star medal** for gallantry, after knocking out a machine gun nest and forcing 19 German soldiers to surrender in Germany, and Pfc. Edgar Draper, Lionville, received a **Bronze Star medal** for keeping communications intact during a Nazi bombardment in Belgium.

It was noted at the banquet of the recently formed **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** that there were 182 jobs open in the borough, and two industrial firms were to start building new plants here in a few days.

Marshallton Girl Scouts who served as ushers at the Chester County Horse Show at Devon were Florence Johnson, Betty Keehn, Mabel Sellers, Jane and Helen Hall, Mary Wickersham, Doris McCarter and Edith Martin. They were accompanied by Mrs. Lewis Green and Mrs. Marshall Chambers.

The **Downingtown PTA** divided into organizations for each of the borough’s elementary schools. Officers of the **West Ward School Mothers Club** were Mrs. Charles Philips, president; Mrs. Francis Tweed, vice president; Mrs. Ed Towson, secretary; and Mrs. Herbert Ash, treasurer. Officers of the **East Ward Mothers Club** were Mrs. James Stauffer, president; Mrs. Russell Davis, vice president; Mrs. Newlin Moore, secretary; and Mrs. W.P. Canby, treasurer

It's the Fetters-White School in Uwchlan



Rahn Brackin was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above, ca. 1900, as the Fetters-White School, near Worthington Road and Route 100 in Uwchlan Township. The photo below shows how the schoolhouse looks today. Both photos were provided by MaryLou Buchenauer of the Uwchlan Township Historical Commission.

The original schoolhouse, a 20-foot-square building, initially known as the White School because of its whitewashed stucco-over-stone exterior, opened in 1817.

Two Uwchlan churches, St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Paul's UCC, used the original schoolhouse for services in 1830s.

The current school was constructed nearby in 1863. It's namesake, Abraham Fetters, was a teacher there from 1850 to 1859. He created the township's first public school library, and added vocal music and concerts to the curriculum. Also, the school was the first in the area to have a student grading system.

According to an article in the *Main Line Today*, "Fetters later served as a captain during the Civil War, drilling his men on the streets of Lionville, before heading to Harrisburg" in 1862.

The school closed in 1918; reunions were held there until 1939. The building was a rental property from 1922 to 1998.

In 2002, the newly-established Abraham Fetters-White School Preservation Society

leased the property and began restoring the building, according to the Jan. 14, 2009 edition of the *Community Courier*. Spearheaded by Fran Pluchino and Frank Perina, the Preservation Society has replaced the building's roof, and added new windows and a septic system.

Owned by, and adjacent to, St. Paul UCC Church, the building is now used as a community meeting room.



The Fetters-White School in Uwchlan Township, as it looks today.

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

DHS Alumni Assn. banquet

The banquet will be held from 5-10 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.downingtionalumni.org.

DHS West Post Prom Party

The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party 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 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 March 19, April 16 and May 14.

Please check out the P3 website: 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, 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, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.