



## 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 site in this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

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

## Lots of local school news in April 1961

Much of the information in local newspapers focused on the Downingtown school system in April 1961.

Numerous cracks were found in the exterior walls of **East Ward School**, according to an investigation by an architectural firm, hired by the Downingtown Joint Area Elementary School District. The firm's representatives also recommended that a drain line be installed around the exterior of the building and some sidewalks should be replaced. The board also restated its policy on retirement of professional employees, which is mandatory when they reach 65 years of age.

Several members of **DHS Tribunal** appeared on a TV program in Philadelphia, which discussed how law is taught in public schools. Local pupils who participated in the program aired on Channel 3 were: Carmelia Baxter, Thomas Yerkes, Anne Kalemjian, Joan Farra, Richard Supplee, Lewis Wilson, George Shoemaker, Charles Newlin, Georgia Wagner and John Rogers.

An article about musical activities at the high school, written by DHS pupil **Judy Jones** was published in an issue of “The School Musician,” a national magazine for directors, teachers, students and parents.

The **pom pom girls**, portrayed in the DHS production of “Swinging High,” were Barbara Noll, Bonnie Plank, Carol Shisler, Mia Kangas, Rose Kryzscho, Jane Vail, Donna Thompson and Pam Leach.

Downingtown elementary school students who participated in the chorus at the **Chester County Musical Festival** were Glen Baker, Parham Berryman, Mary Ann Brookover, Kathy Cann, Stephen Hendry, Jon Johnson, Cheryl Miller, Francis Parson, Donna Peterman, Catherine Rogers and Stephen Shirk.

Award winners at the Downingtown-Chester Valley **Future Farmers of America’s** annual banquet were Walter Jankowski, star farmer; Andy Reneth, star green hand; Bob Ruark, dairy farming; Jack Stone and Newell Burdick, farm mechanics; and Edgar Donnon, public speaking.

**Paul Miller** was named the outstanding back and **Earl Wells** was the best lineman when the DHS football team was honored by St. Anthony’s Lodge at its fourth annual banquet.

Officers elected to lead the one-year-old **DHS Band Fathers** group were Charles Seibert, president; William Ash, vice president; Newton Thompson, treasurer; and A.L. Anderson, secretary.

Although **Bill Pollock** won three events—low hurdles, 220 and broad jump—the DHS track team lost to Conestoga 63-54.

Whippet southpaw **John Snyder** twirled a two-hitter and Bob French had three hits and four RBIs as DHS won its Ches-Mont opener by blasting Conshohocken 12-0.

### **Other local news**

Newly elected officers of the Downingtown branch of the **Chester County Hospital Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. Lewis Riddell, president; Mrs. Allen Powell, vice president; Anna McI. Miller, recording secretary; Mrs. Allison Hallowell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Weldon Bicking, treasurer.

Uwchlan Township’s supervisors decided to buy the **old Lionville School**, and use it as a township hall.

Wallace Township’s plan to build a new grandstand and a parking area at Glen Moore Park. It’s now known as **Wagon seller Park** because James Wagon seller donated the land for it ca. 1900.

“To the Victor” is the first dramatic production put on by **The Hilltoppers** drama group at Hopewell Methodist Church. Members of the cast were Rev. Donald and Joyce Bower, Arnold Kring, Nicky Anderson, Millicent and Eleanor Krapf, Dick Weiler, Peter Smith, Dickey Watts and Beverly Laird.

Elected officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman’s Club** were Theresa Sciarretta, president; Mrs. Mark Bareford, first vice president; Mrs. Robert Kaster, second vice president; Carmalene Farnum, recording secretary; Mrs. Edward Foreman, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Ray Kipp, treasurer.

## **Quonset hut was at Green St. and Jefferson Ave.**



Gregg Nelms is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first of many people to correctly identify the photo above as the Quonset hut at Green Street and Jefferson Avenue in Downingtown. It's now the site of Green Street Mews, a row of 30 townhouses with two-car garages, built on a flood plain several years ago (See photo below). The hut was occupied by C. E. Stauffer Heating & Cooling for many years, according to Victor Taraschi. And an alcohol and drug treatment center for troubled teenagers was located there in the late 1970s.

## **What the site looks like now**



## **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.downingtowndalumni.org](http://www.downingtowndalumni.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 April 16 and May 14.

Please check out the P3 website: [www.dwestpostprom.com](http://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](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, send an email to:**

**[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).**

