



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Downingtown area news in June 1961

The following news items were originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago.

The **Lionville Fire Co.**'s new engine won first prize for the best appearing apparatus in Elverson's 50th anniversary parade. Firefighters who rode on the truck in the parade were Carl and Richard Ruth, Joseph Bicking and William F.B. Isinger.

A total of 125 youngsters were enrolled in the Vacation Bible School at **East Brandywine Baptist Church**. Superintendents of various grades were Mary Mull, toddlers;

Annabelle Burkey and Alice Moxley, nursery; Mabel Butler, primary; Miriam Beale, middlers; Ruth Stringer, juniors; and Ethel Sink, junior high.

Jack Barry won the Misplaced Item Contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Community Promotional Plan**, because he found the largest number of misplaced items in store windows of local merchants.

Elected officers of the Auxiliary of the Charles F. Moran **American Legion Post** were Esther Williams, president; Mrs. Belle Murray, first vice president; Mrs. William Keen, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Thornton, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Mrs. Paul McCombs, historian; Anna Dougherty, chaplain; and Mrs. Alford Nichols, sergeant-at-arms.

At a Court of Awards ceremony, conducted at Kerr Park by **Girl Scout Troop 180**, the following girls received second class rankings: Jean Keen, Lillian Echols, Donna Usher, Jennifer Bruton, Elaine Geiger, Mary Ann Hipple, Marvene Dennis, Ruth Weaver and Linda Massimini. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Leon Williams, Mrs. Donald Forbes and Mrs. Hallan Usher.

One of the featured attractions at **St. Anthony's Fair and Celebration** was WFIL-TV's "Sawdust Sam," and Sunny Saunders and his Jumping Jacks.

Officers elected by **Women of the Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Mrs. Thomas Moffett, senior regent; Mrs. Ashton Lammey, junior graduate regent; Mrs. Daniel Zittle, junior regent; Mrs. Edward Robinson, chaplain; Mrs. Ross Dague, treasurer; and Mrs. Benjamin Summers, secretary.

Some 600 employees and their guests attended the **Downingtown Iron Works** picnic at Rocky Springs Park, near Lancaster. Winners of contests included: Howard Mowday, Diana Fryberger, Doug Lamb and Tonya Farina, peanut scrambles; Janet and Paul Rubin, balloon kicking; Barbara Ashton and Dora Steeley, shoe scramble; and Carol King, Susan Steeley, Steve Rubin and John Burkey, basketball heave.

New officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dr. Anthony Ricci, president; Ben Valocchi, first vice president; Dickey Hutchison, second vice president; Warren Strawsnyder, third vice president; Albert Skiles, lion tamer; Thomas Roberts, assistant lion tamer; Wilbert Smith, tail twister; Don Jones, assistant tail twister; Rev. William Skinner, chaplain; and Horace Rodgers and Charles Beamsderfer, directors. The club announced it would sponsor the Mills Brothers Circus at the Downingtown Farmers Market in August. Proceeds were given to Handicrafters Inc.

Mrs. Mary Eppiheimer was honored at a banquet at Zynn's Diner upon her retirement as a teacher for 26 years in the **Wallace Township School System**. All told, she was a teacher for 43 years. And Susan Ross reigned as Queen of the Wallace Township schools at the annual June Festival. Her honor attendants were Kathy Ayers and Bettie Saathoff, and Harold Hannum, Lewis Riggins, Ronald Hohl and Bruce Pierce were heralds.

Members of the **Hi-Lo team from Lionville**, who won the Housewives Bowling League, were Mrs. Riley Gilbert, Mrs. John Trego, Mrs. Helen Faddis and Mrs. Helen Miller.

The staff of the Vacation Bible School of **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, included: Gussie Robertson and Judy Jones, nursery; Mrs. Robert Romig, Michael Myers, Lois Quinn, and Nancy Helms, kindergarten; Mrs. David Kohlhas, Linda Poloncic and Janet Strawsnyder, primary 1; Mrs. John Keller, Kathy Forbes, and Joyce

hart, primary II; Mrs. Albert Skiles, junior intermediate; George Lowe, arts and crafts; and Danny and Larry Winkler, general assistants.

Elected officers of the **Pickering Valley Women's Club of Upper Uwchlan** were Mrs. Richard Wheatley, president; Mrs. Robert Simpson, vice president; Mrs. John Lockhard, treasurer; Mrs. Ralph Moore, recording secretary; and Mrs. Frank Gottier, corresponding secretary.

The Downingtown Area Joint Elementary Schools' **summer recreation program** was conducted from July 10 through August 18. Morning programs and their supervisors were: East Ward School, Eileen McCardell and Jeanne Emery; Alert Fire Hall, Mary Jean Lillard; Lionville School, Nancy Kohl; and Marshallton School, Rosalie Shepherd.

The re-chartering of **Sea Explorer Scout Ship 34** was pursued by St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown. The unit's committee included Rev. Alfred Vail, Robert Flagg, Chan Cushman, Richard McIlvaine, Stanley Landis, Wallace Huston Jr. and Warren Radcliffe.

The Downingtown Joint School Board decided to spend \$11,600 for **permanent bleachers**, constructed of steel and concrete, for the north side of the DHS (now DiSerafino) football stadium. The bleachers had a seating capacity of 1,020 spectators.

Camp Indian Run, operated by the Philadelphia Girl Scout Council in Wallace Township, was opened for the 28th year. Four Conestoga covered wagons were a new feature that year were. Each camper could spend one night sleeping in one of the wagons.

Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Ralph Ralston, president; James Hines, first vice president; Guy Kline, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; Lloyd Swarner, treasurer; and Edwin Johnson, Rev. Donald Bower and William Kline, directors.

Girl Scout Troop 267, under the direction of Mrs. Armand Taraschi and Mrs. Herbert Talucci, held a Court of Awards. Girls receiving Second Class badges were Kathleen Brown, Nancy DiBerardinis, Christine Ippolito, Mary Beth Lambert, Candace Madrigale, Lucy Perella, Virginia Potter, Cassia Taraschi and Mary Jo Valocchi.

Members of **Brownie Troop 205**, led by Mrs. H.E. Brown, Mrs. Richard Showalter and Mrs. Dominic DiLuigi, who advanced to intermediates in fly-up ceremonies were Marsha Anderson, Ruth Ann Evans, Brenda Showalter, Patricia Cardwell, Sheila Moyer, Jean D'Attilio, Carol Mozzani, Catherine Dolan and Kathleen Pomanto.

Mrs. Harry Perdue was chairman of the troop committee of the new Girl Scout unit in **Marshallton**. Other committee members were Mrs. Milton Durnall, Mrs. John Robinson, Mrs. Austin Fowler and Mrs. Warren Rissel.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon, June 2

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, June 2** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

It's a Sears mail order house in Marshallton



Jack Hines, retired West Bradford Township manager and cabinetmaker extraordinaire, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this house as 1314 W. Strasburg Road in Marshallton. Located next to the Marshallton Inn, the house was built in the 1920s by Oliver Baldwin, according to Ron Trimble, who grew up in Marshallton. Mr. Baldwin lived there with his wife, Frances, until sometime in the 1930s, according to U.S. Census data.

George Mershon lived in the house while he owned the Marshallton Inn, from 1965 until 1996. And the house was part of the deal when Mershon bought the historic inn from Tom Baldwin. Mershon said the house was the Olivia model, which sold for about \$1,200 between 1920 and 1929.

Current owner of the house, as well as the Marshallton Inn, is Wistar Woods LP of Chester Springs.

For more info on Sears mail order homes, see: www.searsarchives.com/homes/index.htm.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

Mac-n-Cheese Cook-off

The second annual Cook-off will be held, rain or shine, from noon to 4 PM Sunday, June 9 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Hosted by the Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club, the cook-off will have local restaurants, businesses, organizations and hometown cooks competing against each other for the title "BEST Mac-n-Cheese in Chester County." Admission is \$10 per person, enabling people to sample each participating group's dish. Tickets can be purchased at the event. The Cook-off's sponsors suggest that people come early in the afternoon, since contestants may run out of food before 4 PM.

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 Downtown 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@downtownareahistoricalsociety.org