



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 4, No. 46

November 14, 2013

## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building shown above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Downingtown area news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items which were originally published by the *East Branch Citizen* in November 1977.

The addition to the **Downingtown Junior High School** was dedicated. The building's capacity was increased to 893 pupils. The \$3.4 million project included renovation of the school's older sections, as well as the new wing, used by the physical education and music departments.

**Property transfers** included: 802 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, \$44,700; 1365 Ridgeview Circle, West Bradford, \$53,900; 418 Carmarthen Court, Uwchlan, \$42,940;

18 Webb Road, East Caln, \$73,426; 10 Waterview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$58,000; 126 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$43,655.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70** who went on a weekend camping trip were Grant Angeny, Scott Bell, Dave and Steve Bishop, Lester Doubts, Joe Handoe, Tom Horblinski, Scott Millward, Eric Raysor and Eric Skinner.

Elementary level students in the Downingtown School District paid 45 cents for **Type A lunches**, and secondary students paid 55 cents for their lunches.

New members of **Lionville Community Church** were Gerry and Ruth Beaver, Richard and Pat Camarra, and Robert and Nancy Jones.

Drum majors of the 150-member **DHS marching band**, directed by Gary Wagner, were Paul Ciotti and Jerry Ware.

DHS soccer coach **Paul Hurley Sr.** was named the Ches-Mont League's Coach of the Year. Players who made the all-league team were Jamie Bogush, Darryl Bull, Jeff Davis, Scooter Farling and Leigh Hannum.

Members of the **DHS field hockey squad**, who made the All Ches-Mont team, were Nancy Urban, Colleen Murtaugh, Ronnie Dellamotta, and Kathy Herion.

Members of the **Uwchlan Hills Home and School Association** who were responsible for putting on a Book Fair were Kitty Aughey, Ruth Ann Gillooly, Joyce Reinbrecht, Anne Buell, Cheryl Gerry, Kay Buhner and Linda Rogers.

Roberta Ekdahl received a **4-H** national award for dog care and training, and Tammy Chiesa participated in the State 4-H Horse Show in Harrisburg.

New members of **Brownie Troop 117**, Marshallton, were Rosemary Brady, Jennifer Doyle, Rae Lewis, Deborah Miller, Erica Spizzirri, Melanie Kefer, Erin McGrady, Michelle Moody and Jennifer Stanley.

Charles Shagren was in charge of the **PRO** (Pupils Reaching Out) program at DHS, which involved 102 students earning credit for their jobs in the community.

The **Downingtown Christmas Committee**, comprised of people representing local churches, service clubs and the school district, planned to bring holiday cheer to 55 local families.

The **Robert Henri Beauty Center**, 151 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was offering a permanent, haircut and styling to senior citizens on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for just \$16.

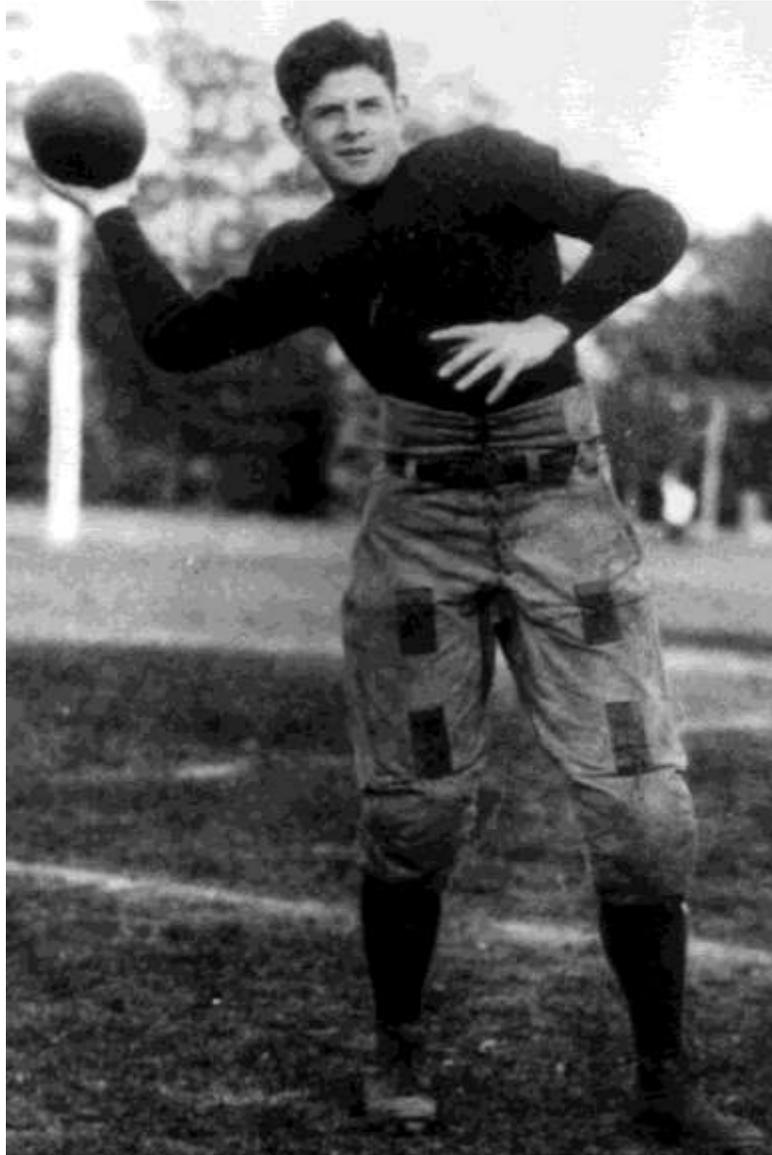
Rev. Barry Ridge, pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, was the featured speaker at the **Downingtown Ministerium's** Thanksgiving Eve Service, held at Downingtown Methodist Church. The DHS Concert Choir sang special music at the service.

## **Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers**

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our free Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. 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](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## **Downingtown's Charlie Way was an All-American at Penn State**

Charlie Way, Class of 1916, probably was the first DHS graduate to earn national recognition and be written about in newspapers across the country. Way received all that ink because he was a consensus (Walter Camp, International News Service and United Press) first team All-American football player at Penn State in 1920.



Charlie Way, when he was a Penn State halfback.

Born in Embreeville in 1897, Way moved to Downingtown with his family when he was three years old, and his father was a foreman in the warehouse of the Cohansey Glass Manufacturing Co., on Chestnut Street in the borough.

As a senior on the DHS football squad, Way scored 32 of 33 touchdowns the team scored during the 1915 football campaign. Beating Coatesville 33-0 on Thanksgiving was the highlight of the season.

However, football wasn't a major high school sport back then. In fact, there was nothing big time about DHS in those days. The high school was sequestered in a few rooms in a school, which was built in 1910 on the south side of West Lancaster Avenue (near where the Messiah Lutheran Church now is) and housed students in grades one through twelve. There were about 30 students in Way's graduating class. The facility became the West Ward Elementary School, after the Junior-Senior High School was built on Manor Avenue in 1932. West Ward was razed in 1961.

When Way played for DHS, the football and baseball teams practiced on a field across the street from the school, where Priori's Mattress store is now located. And with just 12-13 players on the team, there wasn't much scrimmaging, and it would have been difficult to justify hiring assistant coaches.

Home games were played on the field in the middle of the racetrack, where horses harnessed to sulkies raced on Saturdays and holidays, at the intersection of Boot Road and Route 322. There was no band or cheerleaders, and only 100-200 fans came to games, recalled Way.

Way also remembered that none of the DHS players had a complete uniform in those days. They wore their own knickers, and added cleats to an old pair of shoes. Their protective equipment was usually limited to a padded vest and hip pads.

He decided to go to Penn State because it was the "cheapest place to go." And since Way only packed 115 pounds on his 5-8 frame when he showed up at State College as a walk-on, the head coach wasn't going to waste a scholarship on him, no matter how fast and shifty he was.

But Way's broken field running exploits—e.g. he tore off on runs of 70, 55 and 45 yards when Penn State clobbered Maryland 57-0—justified a scholarship in his sophomore year.

And Penn State's coaches were dismayed when Way left the team at the beginning of his junior year to serve in the Army during World War I. However, he bulked up to about 140 pounds while serving in the military, so he was a more durable halfback when he returned to Penn State in 1919.

*(Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part story; the concluding section will be in the Nov. 21 Hist-O-Gram. Most of the information in this article was extracted from articles written in 1977 by DHS English teacher Randy Dietrich, for the East Branch Citizen, a Downingtown weekly.)*

## Seeking info on the Kathermans

We have been contacted by Joerg Kattermann, who lives in Germany. He is seeking info on his relatives, members of the Katherman family, living in the United States. He knows there are several members of the Katherman family who settled in the Downingtown area.

Joerg can be contacted via email at: [j.kattermann@t-online.de](mailto:j.kattermann@t-online.de).

## Was 'What the War Means To Us' course taught in Downingtown?

Rena Eachus Francella of Downingtown recently donated a bunch of neat things, which were kindly delivered to us by Ruth Ann Protivnak.

One of them was a booklet entitled, "What The War Means To Us," which was a Teaching Guide put out by the U.S. Office of Education in 1942, to help teachers explain World War II to secondary level students. The Guide, which was used by history teachers of junior and senior high school pupils across the nation, so the students could "really understand what this war means, how it was forced upon us, what is at stake, and what we want to win for ourselves and

for the world in the victory. However, since the course was not mandatory, we're not sure if it was offered at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School between 1941 and 1945.

"It is important that organized education promote common understanding of certain basic facts and problems," noted John Studebaker, U.S. Commissioner of Education. "This cannot be achieved by an occasional assembly. Nor can it be achieved by leaving these fundamental things to chance coverage by the regular curriculum. . . . This is an all-out war. That means conversion of industry from production of consumer goods to expanded production of the tools for victory. It means shifting millions of competent people from constructive peacetime activities into the armed forces."

Since "schools hold an important sector in this battle line," noted the guide, they were expected to conduct hour-long "forums" about the war every day. And although most school systems already had a full class schedule they were encouraged to add an extra period to each day's schedule so there would be enough time for the special "forums," just as business and government had already extended the length of their work days.

We've included this story to determine if how local schools handled changes brought about by World War II, because it's one more example of the incredible impact that war had on American society.

That's why we're asking Hist-O-Gram readers tell us personal stories about how their parents and grandparents coped with major changes during the WW II era, such as surviving when the major breadwinner was serving in the military and not bringing home a paycheck, and staples such as tires, gasoline, shoes, meat and butter were rationed. Please send your recollections to: [Info@downingtowntoreahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntoreahistoricalociety.org). We'll publish the most interesting stories.

## **We have "cousins" in Toronto, Canada**

We recently received a letter from Nancy Sinclair, who lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She wrote:

"I was born and grew up in Coatesville and have lived in Toronto, Canada since 1973. My home here is in the Ashbridges Bay neighbourhood and I live on Ashdale Avenue near Lake Ontario. A few blocks from my home is the Sarah Ashbridge estate. Sarah Ashbridge and her family left (Downingtown) Pennsylvania in the 1790's, I believe, and settled on a large tract of land in what is now the east end of Toronto. The Ashbridge descendants lived in and/or owned their large home until the latter part of the 20th Century and it now belongs to the Province of Ontario.

Unfortunately, the home is not open to the public, except on the rare special occasion, and it was on one of those days that I toured the home and was excited to see a map of the area in Pennsylvania where the Ashbridge family had lived in the present day Downingtown area. There is a plaque on the grounds explaining the background of Sarah Ashbridge and commemorating the family's significant impact on our thriving present day community."

We hope to get more info on our area's Canadian cousins.

## **It will be part of the Christmas in Marshallton House Tour**



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century house in the photo above as one on Strasburg Road in the village of Marshallton in West Bradford Township. The house, completely restored in 2003-2004, was once known as the “High Pine” because of the tall pine tree in the yard. The house is one of the sites on the Christmas in Marshallton House Tour on Saturday, December 14. See the classified below for more details on the tour.

## **Paid ads for businesses**

### ***Vance Usher, Registered Representative***

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation. Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.com](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Programs at the Downingtown Library***

Pre-registration is required for the programs listed below, which will be offered at the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. You can sign up by accessing [www.downintownlibrary.org/](http://www.downintownlibrary.org/) or by calling 610-269-2741.

Friday, November 15 from 4-7 PM and Saturday, November 16, from 9 AM to 4 PM, The Friends of the Downingtown Library will hold a **Fall Flea Market** upstairs at the Downingtown Library. Look through your attics, closets and drawers, and plan to recycle your unused or gently used gadgets, linens, glassware, toys, etc. to help the library. Donations will be accepted through November 13. No clothing or furniture. Goods may be dropped off upstairs at the Downingtown Library Monday through Thursday (9 AM to 7 PM), Friday (9 AM to 4 PM) and Saturday (9 AM to 3 PM)).

Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 PM-**Backyard Birdwatching**. Learn about the histories, habitats and lifestyles of common Chester County birds. Register online via [www.downintownlibrary.org](http://www.downintownlibrary.org) or call 610-269-2741.

Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM-**A Brief History of the Trains of King of Prussia**. Historian Michael Shaw will present a program on the past, present and future of the King of Prussia railroads. Register online via [www.downintownlibrary.org](http://www.downintownlibrary.org) or call 610-269-2741.

### ***Pancake Breakfast***

Downingtown Lions Club's William Woodruff Memorial Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, November 23. Serving will be from 7:30 AM until 11:30 AM at Central Presbyterian Church 100 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown. The cost for adults is \$6 and children (4 to 12) is \$4; 3 year olds and under are free. Benefits: "Sight First Kids" and local groups in need.

### ***Marshallton House Tour***

The Christmas in Marshallton House Tour will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, December 14. It will feature tours of 21 historic homes decorated for the holiday season and public areas, such as The Bradford Friends Meetinghouse and the Marshallton Inn, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Marshallton, which has been an active village since 1760, is located on Route 162 four miles west of West Chester. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of tour. They can be purchased at Marshallton United Methodist Church on Strasburg Road in the village, or by accessing [www.marshalltonchurch.org](http://www.marshalltonchurch.org), or by calling 610-696-5247. Tickets will also be available and delivered upon request through the office of Kit Anstey, Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors, 610-836-2348 or [Kit@AnsteyTeam.com](mailto:Kit@AnsteyTeam.com). Additional ticket sale locations include Highland Orchard's Farmer's Market and the Holiday Cottage in Marshallton.

In addition to the house tour (no tour ticket required) Marshallton United Methodist Church will host a variety of events, including a luncheon served in Fellowship Hall, live music in the

sanctuary, a country store and holiday cookie sale, and a gallery highlighting the work of local artists Dennis Park, David Katz, Sherry McVikar and Leander Fontaine.

Proceeds raised from this event will go to assist Marshallton United Methodist Church and its mission of providing support and resources for local families and community organizations.

### ***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.

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](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)