



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

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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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

DHS West band won state championship

Congratulations to the DHS West marching band, under the direction of Ed Otto, for winning the state championship, at Hershey earlier this month. You can see their championship program on YouTube at: <http://youtu.be/lmFC1uCS0hk>

Local news items published 52 years ago

Noted below are items which were originally published in local newspapers in December 1961.

Edward Novak, principal at **Lionville Elementary School**, took advantage of the 11-degree weather and created an ice rink outside the school so students could skate there during break periods and after school.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** endorsed Thomas Courtless to fill the seat on Borough Council, which had been vacated by George Snyder. And elected as members of the Chamber's board of directors were W.P. Canby, Horace Rodgers, Richard Warren, Edward Towson, Earl Radcliffe, Warren Strawsnyder, Raymond Baugher, Ray Sheeler, Chandler Cushman, Thomas Roberts, David Yaeck, Richard Lehr, Carl Nelson and Kennard Porter.

With only one returning starter, Sam Westmoreland, coach Jack Appleby's **DHS basketball team** opened its season with a two-overtime win against Oxford. And despite Westmoreland's 22- point effort, Octorara, another Southern Chester County League opponent, beat the Whippets 62-4 in Downingtown's second game.

Richard Lichty, a member of **Boy Scout Troop 115**, Downingtown, was awarded the rank of Eagle. Also recognized at a Court of Honor were Joseph Valente, life scout, and Francis Esposito, star scout.

Elected as officers of the ninth grade at **Downingtown Junior High** were Linda McCombs, president; Donald McDermott, vice president; Donna Cox, secretary; and Stephen Meacham, treasurer. And members of the Junior High's **Boys Cooking Club**, under the guidance of Mrs. Katherine Neal, were James Aaron, Leonard Collier, William Hall, William Kline, Jogn Landis, Kenneth Lee, Norman Matthews, Peter Plank, Russell Slater, Russell Trego and Alan Wills.

Members of the **Ladies of St. Joseph Catholic Church**, who participated in a Nativity tableau, were Mrs. Ernest Panetti, portraying the Blessed Mother; Mrs. Mervin Paylor, St. Joseph; and Mrs. John DiBernardi, Mrs. Anthony Doto, Mrs. Mary Ann Malin and Mrs. Frank Delio, as angels.

Invested in **Brownie Troop 262**, Chester Springs, were Ann Dilworth, Dianne Fink, Hope Hollifield, Deborah Kimmel, Robin Knox, Celeste Alfieri, Betty Miller, Cathy Vail, Mary Katherine Smiley, Ann English and Rebecca English.

Special offerings for Christmas shoppers at the **Downingtown Farmers Market** included: two pair of Ban-Lon men's socks, 75 cents; bulky, women's knit cardigan sweaters, \$3.97; a Chatty Cathy talking doll, \$9.77; and an H-0 three-car train set, \$14.91.

Downingtown Borough Council agreed to buy a 47-acre tract of land on the east side of Wallace Avenue, north of the borough line, which was owned by Maxwell Mizell.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Opti-Mrs. Club** were Mrs. Jack Bray, president; Mrs. Francis Swisher, vice president; Mrs. Clifton Walton, treasurer; and Mrs. Clair Langham, secretary.

Elected to lead the **DHS Future Teachers of America Club** were Barbara Thompson, president; Nancy Heugh, vice president; Sandy Koppenhaver, secretary; Joanna Pope, treasurer; Gayle Davis, historian; and Robert Shank, parliamentarian.

The **Marshallton PTA's** classroom mothers included: Mrs. Elva Fryberger and Mrs. Beryl Bradley, kindergarten; Mrs. Ruth Durnall and Mrs. Betty Hall, first grade; Mrs. Clyde Busby and Mrs. Wesley Walton, second grade; Mrs. Earl Riggins and Mrs. Samuel Wilson, third grade; Mrs. George Hornberger and Mrs. George Fling, fourth grade; and Mrs. Allan Wilgis and Mrs. Warren Rissell, fifth grade.

Members of **Cub Pack 83**, Lionville, who earned wolf badges and arrow points were Richard Faddis, Kevin Miller, Barry Lambert, Ricky Gilbert, Dan Hayes, Ralph Hill, Harry RauchJr. and James McQuail.

Charlie Way also was an All-Pro player

(Editor's Note: This is Part II of a two part story on Charlie Way, DHS Class of 1916. You can access the first part via:

<http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2014%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>.)

After serving in the Army for a year during World War I, Way returned to Penn State in the fall of 1919, his junior year. But he wasn't offered a full scholarship until he told head coach Hugo Bezdek that he was considering an offer from West Point. In those days, the rest of the 3,600 students at Penn State were paying \$75 a semester for tuition.

Obviously, Way earned his keep.

In an article before Penn State beat Penn 10-0 at Franklin Field in 1919, a Philadelphia reporter wrote, "the Downingtown youth weighs only 138 pounds, and he's as fast as the proverbial flash. On the last two Saturdays, he has run back the opening kickoffs for touchdowns."

And when Penn State suffered its sole loss in 1919, a 19-13 setback to Dartmouth, Way was responsible for all of the Nittany Lions' scoring, by running back the opening kickoff 90 yards, and by scooping up a fumble and running 85 yards for another touchdown.

In his final home game at Beaver Field in 1920, Way sealed a 20-0 victory over Nebraska and ensured Penn State's undefeated season, when he sprinted for touchdown runs of 53 and 57 yards. Before that game, the Cornhuskers had been unscored upon.

And before the Pitt game in 1920, Grantland Rice, whose writing is one of the reasons why the 1920s was called the "Golden Age of Sports," claimed Way was "the best broken field runner in the East."

When Way was named a first-team, consensus All-American halfback in 1920, the other All-American halfback was Notre Dame's George Gipp. According to the 1940 film *Knute Rockne: All American*, Gipp fell ill and when dying he asked Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne to promise that, when things were going badly for the team, he should inspire them by asking them to 'win one for The Gipper'."

Ronald Reagan, who portrayed Gipp, told Rockne in the film: "And the last thing he said to me, 'Rock,' he said, 'sometime when the team is up against it and the breaks are beating the boys, tell them to go out there with all they've got and win just one for the Gipper'." That's when Reagan was given the nickname Gipper, and he later used the quotation when seeking election as US president.

Way also was on the track team and held Penn State's record for the broad jump for several years.

After he earned a degree in finance in 1921, Way played for the Canton Bulldogs, one of the original members of the National Football League, while helping to coach the Dayton College football team that fall as well. Then he coached the Allentown (PA) High School team for two seasons, in 1922 and 1923. In 1924, he returned to the pro game, when he played for the NFL's Frankford Yellowjackets, forerunners of the Philadelphia Eagles, and was named to the league's All-Pro team. After spending the 1925 season on the coaching staff of Virginia Tech, he was an

all-league player for the Philadelphia Quakers, undefeated champion of the American Football League in 1926.

Way said the pros played 20 games a season back then, and he was paid \$125-\$150 a game, which was “good money” in the 1920s. And during his pro career, he played against icons such as Red Grange, Jim Thorpe and George Halas.

After he retired from football, Way owned a taxi service and sold insurance during the Depression era. Then he worked as an auditor for the IRS from 1937 until 1963, when he retired.

Way, who married Helen Parker, his high school sweetheart, died on Jan. 31, 1988. He’s buried in the cemetery of Grove United Methodist Church.

Information in this article was accessed from stories written in 1977 by Randy Dietrich in the East Branch Citizen, as well as articles published in the Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Times, and Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger. A scrapbook and many other materials about Charlie Way’s football and track career at Penn State are held in the Archives of the Pattee Library at Penn State University, University Park, PA).

When was Route 282 paved in Lyndell area?

A Hist-O-Gram subscriber needs information on when Route 282 was paved in the Lyndell area. They believe it was in the late 1960s. If you have ANY info on the date when the paving was done, please send an email to us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Student newspaper brings back memories for Class of 1952

One of the items Ruth Ann Protivnak recently donated to the Historic Society was a copy of the May 1952 *Blue and Gold*, published by the students of Downingtown Junior-Senior High School, in the building now occupied by the STEM Academy.

Interesting items in the newspaper included:

After senior class president Ralph Pacinelli delivered a welcoming address at the Class of 1952’s commencement, Barbara Seibert, Patsy Piersol and Sarah Popjoy spoke on various aspects of the theme of citizenship. Carolyn Pritchard and Ronald Piersol sang solos, and Rev. Kenneth Buckwalter, pastor of Hopewell Methodist Church, delivered the invocation and benediction.

One of the highlights of the Concert Band’s annual program was a trumpet duet by Joseph Ursini and Attmore Pollock.

The Letterman’s Club was going to use part of the \$600 in its treasury to buy a movie camera to film some of the football team’s games. The club’s officers were Buddy Supplee, president; Ralph Miller, vice president; and Johnny Talierco, treasurer.

John Talierco and Patsy Piersol received the Alumni Association Senior Awards at the association’s annual banquet at the Alert Fire Co.

Mary Jane “Birdie” Bird and Ralph “Patchy” Pacinelli were named the Senior Girl and Boy of the Year.

The Junior High Dramatic Club put on a play entitled “Augie Richards, Private Eye.” Members of the cast included Tommie Sheen, Louise DiPietro, Angeline Stampone, Eddie Caudill, Claudette Rimel, Jackie Bartelmo, Janet Fazzini and Jeanette Luminella.

Senior members of the National Honor Society were James Duca, Shirley Harple, Patsy Piersol, Janet Kriebel, Vanessa Edelen and Barbara Seibert. New members were Mary Ann Fazzini, Carrol Lewis, Jay Walton, Joan Pollock, Sarah Popjoy, Eleanor DiEulis, Clinton Law, Patsy Osborne, Shirley Wells, Howard Charles and Connie Hamilton.

It's on Highspire Road in East Brandywine



Shelley Francies, a longtime resident of downtown Lyndell in East Brandywine, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above, taken by Mike Dunn. The original part of the house was built by John McClure in 1748, according to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township*. It became known as Lyndenwood, after two additions were built in in the 19th Century. Ruth and John Kaltenbach bought the property in the early 1960s. Daniel Rhoades, the current owner, is restoring the place.

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.downingtowntownareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtowntownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Ashbridge House won't be open this Sunday afternoon

Ashbridge House, our 304-year-old headquarters ON Route 30 in East Caln, will not be open on Sunday, Nov. 24. However, we'll have our regular clipping and pasting session from 1-4 PM Sunday, November 24.

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, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

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, 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. 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, 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