



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 this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.
Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

More local news items published 52 years ago

Noted below are items which were originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of December 1961.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** announced that Rex Morgan, Philadelphia TV personality, would be the featured speaker at its annual dinner in January.

Cut your own Christmas trees were available for \$2 at **Tallwood Farm**, 3.5 miles north of Downingtown on Route 282. (*Editor's Note: Anyone know what happened to that farm?*)

The **Ladies Auxiliary of St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, sponsored a teen dance on Christmas night. Music was furnished by the "Galaxies."

The new **Brandywine-Wallace Elementary School**, which cost \$396,000 to build, was dedicated. The school included 12 classrooms, a special education room, a kindergarten room, a health suite, a library, a music room and a cafetorium. The school's capacity was 451 students. In 1961, about 350 pupils from East Brandywine, Wallace and Upper Uwchlan attended the school.

Officers elected to lead the **Alert Fire Co.**, Downingtown, were William Barrett, president; George Nixdorf, vice president; Elmer Schrupf, recording secretary; Arthur Glauner, financial secretary; Richard Myers, treasurer; Leslie Sheeler, trustee; Alfred Peterman, assistant chief; Walter Peazzoni, captain; Lewis Wilson and Thomas Lee, lieutenants; Paul Backenstose, Fred Gates and Clair Langham, fire police.

Members of **Brownie Troop 243**, who visited residents of nursing homes to deliver Christmas favors they made and sing carols, were Nancy Kohlhas, Linda Stoner, Turie Hayes, Cindy Mitman, Debbie Berry, Sharon Charles, Mary Fitzgerald, Debbie Seibert, Sandy Piersol, Terri and Robin Pearson, JoAnn Carey, Gail Wills and Barbara Pulinka. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. William Keen, Mrs. Joseph Wills and Mrs. David Kohlhas.

Downingtown Paper Co. officials claimed they were being harassed by Downingtown Borough Council, regarding proposed land condemnation ordinances, sought to stop the paper company from dumping sludge and waste in the lake area slated to be converted into the Fairmount Park. The 47-acre tract involved in the proposed park extended north from Pennsylvania Avenue and east from Wallace Avenue. Parts of the tract were owned by the East Caln Realty Co., a subsidiary of Downingtown Paper; the Bicking Paper Co.; and Mrs. Maxwell Meisel, a borough resident.

Officers installed at the **Ladies Auxiliary of the East Brandywine Fire Co.** were Mrs. Elmira Thomas, president; Mrs. Mae Swarner, vice president; Mrs. Hannah Harner, recording secretary; Mrs. Harold Dague, treasurer; Mrs. Pauline Moses, financial secretary; and Mrs. Helen Frazer, chaplain.

And officers elected by members of the **Downingtown Branch of the Needlework Guild** were Mrs. Frank Smedley, president; Mrs. Paul Pollock, vice president; Mrs. Robert Garrett, secretary; and Mrs. Stanley Seneff, treasurer.

The **Downingtown Junior High Science Department**, supervised by Rita Gleason and Joseph Tremul, put on a skit that dramatized a trip to the moon. Members of the cast included James Schofield, John Caldwell, Eric Dietrich, Howard McGirk, John Barton, Joan Acker, Barbara Baum, Gene Martin and Edwin Conner.

Officers of the **Future Homemakers of America Club** at the Junior High were Deborah Dunn, president; Priscilla Asparagus, vice president; Diane Wilkerson, secretary; and Linda Wheatley, treasurer.

New officers of the Churchwomen group at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Charles Mead, president; Mrs. George Lord, first vice president; Mrs. Marshall Waltz,

second vice president; Mrs. Maurie Davis, treasurer; Mrs. Fred Pollock, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Albert Herman, recording secretary; and Margaret Whitecar, corresponding secretary.

The Lords and Ladies of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, put on a Christmas pageant. The cast included Thomas Peazzoni, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stevens, Harry Foreman, Robert Sheeler, Ira Buckwalter, Donald Bireley, Norman Pannebaker, George Nordblom, Lewis Prekup, Robert Forrest, William Barrett and George Whiteman.

New officers of the Women's Association at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glenmoore, were Mrs. Gilbert Cornog, vice president; Margaret Howson, program chairman; Mrs. Edwin Kalemjian, treasurer; Mrs. John Kelly, fellowship chairman; and Mrs Frank Styer, nominating committee.

The **DHS boys' basketball team** overcame a five-point, halftime deficit and beat Pottsgrove 53-47 to win the Royersford Jaycees Holiday Basketball Tournament. Leading scorers for the Whippets were Bill Pollock, 14 points; George Murphy, 13; and Eugene Williams, 13. Downingtown made it to the finals by clobbering Clifton Heights 61-16.



Square dancing was one of the many activities at St. Paul's Lutheran Church's old fashioned picnic, which was part of the Lionville church's year-long 175th anniversary celebration.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, is 175 years old

In 1838, Lutheran and German Reformed residents of the Lionville area agreed to build a Union Church together, at the site of the White School, near the current St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Worthington Road in Exton. Peter Stiteler donated the land, and John Hartman's bid of \$1,483 won the contract to build the tiny one-story, stone structure. Hartman was to furnish all materials, excepting the date stone, door sills and delivery of water for the masons.

The new church, named St. Paul's Church in Uwchlan at the time, was dedicated in November 1838, and the two congregations agreed to have services on alternate Sundays. Rev. Peter Ruthrauff, who already was the pastor of three other Lutheran churches nearby, took on the pastorate of St. Paul's as well. St. Paul's charter of incorporation was granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County in February of 1844.

In 1852, the Union Church arrangement was dissolved, and the Reformed congregation purchased the interests of the Lutherans for \$700. And \$300 of the \$700 was used by the Lutherans to purchase a small parcel of land in the village of Lionville, from Mordica and Lydie Lee, where a two-story, stone church was built for about \$4,000. The church was dedicated on

January 1, 1853. This church building was located where "the Nurtury" is now located. Also in 1853, St. Paul's Sunday School was established. From the land not used for the church, was dedicated as a cemetery. In 1860, the congregation purchased its first parsonage for \$1,500, it was situated on a lot diagonal to the second church.

St. Paul's was one of the few early Lutheran congregations to never have had a German language service. There was a tendency on the part of English-speaking congregations to be less conservative than their German-speaking brothers and sisters.

From 1877 until 1899, St. Paul's was part of a two-church parish, with St. Matthew's Lutheran on Route 401, Chester Springs. However, progress at St. Paul's continued. In 1881, the sanctuary was renovated, new furnishings were added, and the old windows were altered and replaced with stained glass ones, three of which were memorial windows. There also were new chandeliers, a chancel railing was installed, and frescoes were painted on the ceiling.

In 1883, the Women's Missionary Society was formed, and the Christian Endeavor (Youth) Society was formed in 1887. A year later, two acres of ground were added to the cemetery. And in 1896, a new parsonage, located diagonally across the street from the church, was purchased with funds bequeathed by the Misses Rebecca and Isabel Acker.

The two-church arrangement with St. Matthews was concluded in 1899 when St. Paul's hired its first full-time pastor, Rev. Charles Streamer.

The new century saw the people of St. Paul's enlarging the chancel, rearranging the furniture and adding an altar. The oil lamps in the church and the parsonage were replaced with electric lights in 1921. However, financial hardship forced the congregation to sell the parsonage in 1928. After the sexton's home was remodeled, it became the new parsonage.

Like the rest of the United States, financial challenges continued for St. Paul's, through the Depression and World War II years. And in 1943, the church arranged to share a pastor with Messiah Lutheran of Downingtown. That joint-charge situation continued until 1959, when Rev. Roy Gulliford became St. Paul's full-time pastor in 16 years.

Despite the challenges in the post-World War II era, a new organ was purchased in 1949, and St. Paul's portion of the pastor's annual salary was raised to \$1,200 that year. In 1951, the Luther League was formed, and a new roof was put on the roof in 1955. And in 1956-57, the chancel was remodeled, and a classroom, a kitchen and bathrooms were added to the back of the church.

By 1962, membership had grown to 273, and the church's 125th anniversary was celebrated a year later.

(Editor's Note" This is Part I of a two-part article. The second installment will be published in next week's Hist-O-Gram. Information in this story was gleaned from "The History of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lionville, Pennsylvania, 1838-1988," which was written and compiled by Paul Schuler.)

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DHS Class of 1953's 60th reunion



The DHS Class of 1953 had its 60th reunion this fall. The photo above, provided by Ruth Ann Protivnak, shows those who attended the reunion. They were, left to right: first row, Annabelle Jackson, Margueritte Hartz, Peggy Lang, Betty Foreman, Doris Borchert, Pat Stevens, Kay Keitt, Dorothy Park, Judy Herman, Doris Wilson, Esther Wuertz and Diane Leister; second row, Mildred McDonald, Raymond Hamilton, Edie Perdue, Liz Wagoner and Mary Jo Tracy; back row, Ruth Ann Protivnak, Elvin Hershey, Ken Comstock, Lew Kinsey, Howard “Duke” Charles, Jack Francella, Joe Woodward, Paul Stevens, Bill Davis, Francis Petrella, Donald Smith, Bob Arters, Hayes Carr, Bob Pierce and Charles Popjoy.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, December 1

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, December 1** 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 convenience

It's at 115 Downing Avenue, and it's for sale



Mike Woodward is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify

this as a photo of the house at 115 Downing Avenue, Downingtown. It was owned and occupied by three generations of the Burns family. The current owner, Denise Ciarlone, is selling it. For more details see: http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/115-Downing-Ave-Downingtown-PA-19335/9140913_zpid/

Paid ads for businesses

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Acoustic Show

An Acoustics Show will be presented at 7 PM Thursday, December 5 in the auditorium of Downingtown West High School. The show will include musical acts by DHS West students, using only acoustic instruments and their voices.

A \$5 donation will be collected at the door, and proceeds from the show will be donated to Autism Speaks, a foundation which sponsors research and spreads awareness about autism.

The show will be sponsored by DHS West's National Art Honor Society (NAHS). The NAHS at DHS West conducts activities throughout the school year, including visits to St. Martha's Manor, a senior retirement facility for senior citizens, to brighten the residents' holidays; help organize DHS West art shows; visit the Downingtown School District's middle school and elementary schools to help with students' projects; and promote to art-related activities in the community.

Come out for a night full of live music, baked goods, and artwork to benefit Autism Speaks at the Downingtown West Acoustic Show.

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 Winter Market

The Downingtown Winter Market will be at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM on Thursday, December 5, 12, and 19. There be NO Market on *December 26 or January 2*. 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.

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