



Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtowntownareahistoricalsociety.org

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Let's give this shot another shot!



We ran this photo two weeks ago, and no one identified its location. However, we suspect at least one person will recognize where the beautiful barn pictured above is located this time. The first person to correctly identify the barn will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downtowntownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news more than 67 years ago

The following news items were originally published in local newspapers in May 1946.

Harry Van Tassell, editor-publisher of *The Archive* in Downingtown for 40 years, reported that he had sold the weekly newspaper to Robinson McIlvaine. A Harvard graduate from Downingtown, McIlvaine had recently completed five years of service with the Navy, after serving as assistant to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1938 to 1941. *The Archive* had been published in Downingtown under that name since 1875, and was a lineal descendant of Chester County's first newspaper, *The Temperate Zone*, founded in 1809.

Norman Howe was appointed trustee at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, to fill the unexpired term of Austin Windle, deceased. Trustees who were re-appointed were Leo Hamilton, Evans Miller and Norman Pannebaker.

Officers of the Downingtown **Moose Lodge**, who were installed by Arthur Phillips, past governor, included: Donald Dixon, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Fred Bowers, prelate; Francis Francella, treasurer; Walter Adams and George Crosby, trustees.

The **Dutch Cupboard** on Bondsville Road (now the Thorndale Inn) was reopened by Eleanor and Jackson Taylor.

Newly elected officers of the **Lyndell Christian Temperance League** were Mrs. Earl Mercer, president; Mrs. Ralph Eppenhimer, vice president; Mrs. Charles Popjoy, secretary; Mrs. George Hannum, assistant secretary; and Mrs. B.A. Hughes, treasurer.

Members of the **Downingtown Woman's Club** elected the following officers: Leta Tweed, president; Mrs. Charles Ezrah, vice president; Mrs. George Aumiller, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Deets, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. David Ross, treasurer.

Samuel Evans, who had been a teacher in the Coatesville School District, was hired as principal of Downingtown Junior-Senior High School.

The Women's Missionary Society of **Windsor Baptist Church** in Upper Uwchlan had a Welcome Home dinner for those who had served in the military in World War II. Veterans who attended were Clyde Harner, Maurice Garvine, LeRoy Trego, Frank McBride, Homer Darlington, Paul and Ralph Moore, Ellsworth Maxton and Joseph Taylor.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**, which was meeting at the Exton Lodge for the first time, were W. I. Pollock Jr., president; Herman Faucett, vice president; Herman Kramm, treasurer; Robert Peters, secretary; Richard Warren, assistant secretary; and Shartle Brookover, program chairman.

The **West Bradford School Board** was debt-free after it paid the last two bond issues related to the \$10,000 it borrowed in 1936 to finance the construction of the Marshallton School. The loan was supposed to be paid off in 1956; however, the debt was completely cleared 10 years early, in 1946.

DHS pitcher **Ray Barrow** tossed two no-hitters in one week, when the Whippets beat Pottstown and Coatesville. However, in an extra-inning battle the following week with West Chester, to determine the leader of the Suburban Conference, Downingtown lost to the Warriors, 2-1. West Chester pitcher Bob Ludwick limited Downingtown to one hit, a single by Dick Dague. Philadelphia Phillies scout "Jocko" Collins came to the game to check out both pitchers.

Info found in school Farm Show and Concert programs

Caroline Ash's recent donation of memorabilia from her days in the Downingtown School System included a program for the 1958 Farm Show at DHS and two Spring Concert programs from when she attended the Junior High.

Before the high school started annual Homecoming weekends in 1963, the big social event at DHS every fall since 1941 was the Farm Show, sponsored by the high school's Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America clubs. Don't forget, most of the townships, which now comprise the Downingtown Area School District, were farm communities in 1958.

Winners of Agricultural competition—corn, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, dairy cattle, poultry and tractor driving—received heifer calves and baby chicks, donated by local farms and hatcheries. The Homemakers' competition focused on the eight different garments and nine categories of baked goods they made, and Home Decorations such as cut flower arrangements and table centerpieces.

The highlight of the two-day show was the crowning of the Harvest Queen and her court. Candidates were selected by members of the FFA, and members of the high school's senior and junior classes voted to determine who was the Queen.

Officers of the FFA in 1958 were James Beggs, president; Jack Hoffman, vice president; Lee Huey, treasurer; Jeff Peterson, secretary; Albert Hultz, reporter; James White, sentinel; Lamar Howe, chaplain; and Harry McMinimee. Harold Klinger, who taught Agriculture at the high school for many years, was the faculty advisor.

And officers of the school's Homemakers group included Judy Hogan, president; Kathy McMinimee, vice president; Barbara Garris, secretary; Betty May, treasurer; Shirley Evans, reporter; and Linda Billman, historian. Alice Gee was the faculty advisor.

Highlights of the Spring Concert in April 1958 included songs from several Broadway musicals sung by the choruses. Soloists were Ann Galt, Pamela Leach, Carol Lillard, Carmella Cressman, Galucha March. And several selections were sung by a group, known as "The Keystones," comprised of Jimmy Connor, Robert Shank, Neil Shields, Lewis Wilson and Thomas Yerkes.

The concert included selections by the Elementary Band, as well as the Junior High Band. The Junior High Majorettes also participated.

Officers of the Junior High Band were Tom Yerkes, president; Judy Jones, vice president; Joan Farra, secretary; and Kenny Draper, treasurer. And officers of the Girls Chorus were Becky Kemp, president; Bunny Hilton, vice president; Linda Dillon, secretary; and Ruth Wertz, treasurer. Also, officers of the Junior High Mixed Chorus included Judy Jones, president; Thomas Yerkes, vice president; Joyce Stratton, secretary; Helen Simmons, treasurer; and Lee Berry, electrical engineer.

In the concert presented in April 1959, Thomas Pollock, a teacher, was the guest conductor of the Mixed Chorus, and William Byham, another teacher, sang a solo. Students who took turns directing the Junior High Band were Neil Shields, W. I. Pollock and Robert Shank.

Officers of the Junior High Band were Neil Shields, president; Kenny Mills, vice president; Mark Jones, secretary; and Susie Fox, treasurer. Ruth Ann Miller and Barbara Thompson were the librarians. And the Elementary School Band's officers were Kenny Sigle, president, and Eddy Connor, vice president.

And officers of the Mixed Chorus were Neil Shields, president; Nancy Gindin, vice president; Janet Yanascogli, secretary; and Carol Lillard, treasurer.

Joseph Poltrone was head of the Junior High's Music Department at that time.

Editor's Note: The programs for the DHS Farm Show and the Junior High Spring Concerts, cited in the article above, are primary examples of the type of materials we're constantly seeking for our archival collection. And we suspect that almost every Hist-O-Gram subscriber has similar old printed programs from when they, or their kids, were involved in local school, scouts, teams and clubs. You'll feel wonderful when you finally get rid of those printed materials, which have been cluttering up closets, basements, attics and garages for years. You can drop them off between 1 PM and 4 PM on a Sunday at Ashbridge House, our headquarters next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30. And if Sunday afternoons don't work for you, email us at Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org, and we'll set up a time that's more convenient.

It's at 171 Crawford Road in East Brandywine Twp.



Stephen Ziobro, who now lives in Washington, DC, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as the house at 171 Crawford Road in East Brandywine. The original part of the house, owned by Bill and Norma Steimer, was built in 1763 and is for sale. The photo was taken by Mike Dunn.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Brief, but important

1. Remember the vintage photo of West Ward School students sitting at their desks in last week's Hist-O-Gram? Remember when we claimed they were fourth graders? Well, Caroline Ash, who provided the photo, contacted us as soon as she opened her Hist-O-Gram and told us they were sixth graders, not fourth graders.

No catastrophe. We just should have realized when we saw the kids in that photo that they could not have been fourth graders, because they looked so angelic and mature.

2. Congratulations to Ron Meacham of Downingtown, who won the Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle last Sunday. That means he and his wife, Karen, will be having a delicious meal at a dozen local, historic restaurants over the next 12 months.

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

Programs at the Downingtown Library

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

Thursday, Oct. 10, **DAPI Ghost Report** - The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators' program will include a combination of photos, video, and electronic voice phenomenon of investigations held in the Downingtown area and at the library. The program will be from 6:30-7:30 PM.

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 from October 21 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.downingtowntownlibrary.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.downingtowntownlibrary.org or call 610-269-2741.

Operation Military Christmas Stocking

Help send holiday spirit to our troops in Afghanistan. Suggested pocket-sized items to be dropped off on weekdays between 9 AM and 4 PM at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike or on Saturdays and Sundays at the Village Hardware, Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, **BEFORE Friday, Oct. 11**: games, chapstick, candy, and small game books (Sudoku, crosswords), nail clippers, Q-Tips, hand sanitizer, baby wipes in individual packs, individual dry soups, packets of individual-size hot and cold powdered drinks, nuts, Trail Mix, and trial-size men's deodorant, shampoo and body wash. No glass or aerosol items can be shipped. For more info, call the township at 610-269-8230.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day from 7 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Oct. 26. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Downingtowntown 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