



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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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@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

# Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are items, which were originally published in local newspaper in the first two weeks of November 1961.

DHS juniors William Ash, William Pollock, Nancy Heugh and Susan Whittaker were nominated for the **Americans Abroad** program, sponsored by the American Field Service.

The PTA of the **East Brandywine-Wallace Joint School District** held a Ballot Box Bake Sale on Election Day, to benefit the library of the new Brandywine-Wallace School. Quart containers of chicken corn soup, as well as baked goods, were sold at the polls in Guthriesville and Glenmoore.

A special offered by the **Howard Johnson's Restaurant** in Exton was a multi-course roast turkey dinner, for only \$1.29.

The Halloween Party for seventh graders at **Downingtown Junior High** was planned by these teachers: Joseph Tremul, chairman; Sara Aumiller, tickets; Richard Thatcher, prizes; Kathryn Neal, Susanne Rogers and James Frey, refreshments; Elizabeth Simpson, Josephine Volpe and Joseph Poltrone, entertainment; and Pierina Bloise and Judith Ficca, decorations.

Whippet linemen Ellis Brown and James Yamshak each intercepted a Phantom pass and ran for touchdowns, as **DHS beat Phoenixville 16-6**.

The Downingtown Area Joint Elementary School Board decided to offer **hot sandwiches** on a trial basis at East Ward School and Marshallton School. Neither school had a cafeteria.

Edith Moore and, Warren Supplee, Uwchlan; Charlotte Norris and Kenneth Frey, East Caln; and Margaret Anderson and Horace Rodgers, West Bradford; retired as members of the **Joint Elementary School Board** because that board had merged with the Joint High School Board.

Participants in the dedication of the new **Beaver Creek School** in Downingtown included Donald Jenkins, principal; Elmer Schrupf, board president; Raymond Baugher, superintendent; Weldon Bicking, authority chairman; Carl Garrison, director of elementary education; Seth Pope, county school board president; Theodore Rogers, school board solicitor; Charles Menas, PTA president; and George Nixdorf, past school board president.

Members of Intermediate **Girl Scout Troop 314**, Glenmoore, went door-to-door, collecting sheets and pillow cases for cancer patients.

Representatives of the **Blue and Gold student newspaper** at DHS, who attended the PA Scholastic Press Assn. convention in State College, were Barbara Rothas, Nancy Tibel, Gail Dilworth, Sharon Donaghy, Stephen Pollock, Constance Smedley and June Williamson.

More than 75% of the registered voters in **Uwchlan Township** went to the polls in the general election. Winners included Russell Miller, supervisor; Grace Gordon, auditor; Harvey Happersett, tax collector; and Harry Ruth, constable. All were Republicans.

**Other winners** were Thomas Brookover and Robert Hadfield, who ran on ballots for school director in Downingtown, Uwchlan and East Caln. And Earl Langford won the election for supervisor in East Caln. In West Bradford, Edwin Hill and Austin Fowler were elected supervisor, while Robert Hodge and Walter Fetherolf won school board positions. In Upper Uwchlan, Bertha McCardell edged Janet Garvine by four votes in the tax collector race.

**Dion**, the doo wop singer appeared at the Exton Roller Rink, after he left The Belmonts. On the night of Dion's appearance, there was dancing at the rink was from 8:45 to midnight. His big hit at the time was "Runaround Sue." You can see Dion singing that hit on YouTube at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jefJpr-3no](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jefJpr-3no).

Winners of the costume judging at the Halloween Party at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Joan Acker, prettiest; Richard Meredith, ugliest; Judy Bittmann, cutest; and Mary Fitzgerald, most comical.

And winning youngsters in the costume competition at the Halloween Party at **St. Paul's UCC**, Lionville, were Mary Ellen Fagley and Gale Temple, best couple; Mary Ann Corneal, funniest; Carol Lewis, prettiest; Christine Koser, ugliest; and David Coover, most original.

Also, winners at **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Halloween Party were: David Newlin, prettiest dress; Kathy and Judy Kring, most original; Kenneth Dowlin, funniest; Harry Yost, ugliest; and Linda Kemp, hardest to guess.

Girls who became full-fledged members of **Brownie Troop 210 in Marshallton** were Katie Anderson, Cathy Busby, Carol Caldwell, Doris Collins, Cindy Edwards, Molly Schlinger, Elva Fowler, Barbara Griggs, Patrice McLearn, Cathy Newman, Villa Mae Osborne, Patti Riggins, Jane Walton and Bonnie Hoxter.

Members of the Ladies of St. Joseph's in Downingtown who won prizes for their Halloween costumes were Mrs. Vincent Clark, oldest; Mrs. Anthony DiLuigi, most original; Mrs. Ernest Panetti, prettiest; Mrs. Tony Mattioni, ugliest; Mrs. Matthew Menna, most authentic; Mrs. Adam Ehling, funniest; Mrs. George Kalbitzer and Mrs. Joseph Cipollini, ugliest pair; Mrs. John Morris and Mrs. Andrew Mento, most authentic pair.

Officers of the **Marshallton School PTA** were Austin Fowler, president; Mrs. Donald Moore, vice president; Mrs. Clarence Middleton, secretary; Mrs. Robert Ludwick, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. William Grigson, treasurer. Committee chairmen of the organization included Mrs. John Griggs, membership; Mrs. Paul DiMatteo, Mrs. Albert Anderson and Mrs. Preston Davis, program; Mrs. Robert Hodge and Mrs. Barrett Cleaver, ways and means; Mrs. Austin Fowler, project; and Mrs. Joseph Kirkner, hospitality.

## **First DHS Homecoming was held 50 years ago**

About 1,500 DHS alumni attended the first DHS Homecoming game, which was held on Saturday, October 12, 1963. It was sponsored by the DHS Alumni Association, which is still recognized as the nation's oldest high school alumni group in continuous operation.

The Homecoming program began with a parade, from East Ward School to what is now known as DiSerafino Stadium. Charles Ax emceed the ceremonies and introduced the Homecoming Queen, Diana McDermott, and her court to the crowd of more than 3,700 people.

Following welcoming remarks by Joseph Travaglini, president of the Alumni Association, and other school officials, members and coaches of past DHS championship teams were introduced by former players, Clarence Wilkerson and Herbert Lee. Those honored coaches and the years their teams won championships were: Spurgeon Gingrich, 1926; Francis Tweed, 1938, 1939 and 1940; Howard Caskey, 1951; and Ray DiSerafino, 1957 and 1958.

The halftime program, emceed by Lewis Capriotti, included Congressman Paul Dague presenting a special plaque to Coach Tweed. And Julian Girafalco and John Donofrio presented a monetary gift to Tweed on behalf of his former players, local residents and friends from Lukens Steel Co. Also, Mrs. Tweed received a gift from Mary Sheehan Cardwell, a former cheerleader captain, on behalf of former cheerleaders. Following the game, a reception was held in the Junior High.

However, the festivities were tainted by a 26-6 loss to Phoenixville. The Whippets got rolling momentarily, when John Miller took the opening kickoff and raced 80 yards for an apparent TD.

But that quick score was nullified because of a clipping penalty, and Downingtown's offense was stalled for the rest of the game. The Whippets finally scored in the fourth quarter when Clark Bartell blocked a Phantom punt and, subsequently, DHS quarterback Jim Bob Price crossed the goal line on a one-yard run.

Homecoming events were expanded to two days in 1976, when the parade was switched to Friday night. That was the year Gladys Brookover and Nicky Anderson were honored for establishing and organizing the Homecoming Queen competition for 13 years. In recent years, the parade has been held on Thursday night, and the Homecoming game has been played on Friday since lighting was installed at the stadium. After, DHS was split into two high schools 10 years ago, each school has had its own Homecoming activities.

The first Homecoming Day Committee included: Charles Menas, chairman, Charles Ax, Marion Noll, Gladys and Thomas Brookover, Mary Cardwell, Lewis Capriotti, John Donofrio, Julian Girafalco, Joseph Travaglini, Elma Miller, Robert Williams, Clarence Wilkerson, Herbert Lee, William Ifert, Ray DiSerafino and Joseph Tremul.

Members of the welcoming Committee were Creston Shoemaker, Robert Ash, Graham Bentley, Marian Philips, Paul Dague, Charles Way, George Bousum, Grace and Perry Tyson, Maurice Yohn and William Ash.

Noted below are the Homecoming Queens over the years. The list was provided by Donna Lang Kneisley of the Alumni Association

1963 Mrs. Diana McDermott Wagner *	1983 Miss Christine Moody
1964 Mrs. Cheryl Jordan Rhoades	1984 Miss Jackie Utz
1965 Mrs. Paula Scharek Johnson	1985 Mrs. Paula West Green
1966 Mrs. Cindy Kent Rodgers	1986 Miss Bobbie Stephens
1967 Ms. Donna Usher	1987 Miss Julie Pry
1968 Mrs. Susan Patrizio Johnson *	1988 Miss Nikki Benedix
1969 Mrs. Rose Gazzero Borromeo	1989 Miss Megan Englund
1970 Mrs. Diane Mitchell Hilton	1990 Miss Marcy Mackey
1971 Mrs. Ivy Bertoncini Fessenbecker	1991 Mrs. Wendy Thomas DeSanto
1972 Mrs. Rose Mascherino Ciarlone	1992 Miss Dana Becker
1973 Mrs. Janice Mattioni Caridi	1993 Miss Nicole Luman
1974 Mrs. Kathy Kallmeyer Strode	1994 Miss Ericka VonHacht
1975 Mrs. Donna Valentino Reilly	1995 Miss Monica Beible
1976 Mrs. Linda Mattioni Wolfe	1996 Miss Megan Hughes
1977 Mrs. Karen Hall DeMarco	1997 Miss Lisa Vacca
1978 Mrs. Gina Rambo Celii	1998 Miss Heather DeRafelo
1979 Mrs. Denise Mancini Pratel	1999 Miss Sarah Polite
1980 Miss Sue Bertram	2000 Alison Sanauvong
1981 Miss Jenny Weldon	2001 Antoinette Johnson
1982 Miss Elizabeth Salzarulo	2002 Nicole Mirasola

#### **DHS EAST**

2003 Shadia Arouni  
2004 Mona Qaddoumi  
2005 Kate Giere

#### **DHS WEST**

2003 Nicole Scotto  
2004 Denise Campbell  
2005 Kai Lawson

2006 Courtney Caporizzo  
2007 Audrey Snyder  
2007 Leigh Reichert  
2008 Jenna Bair  
2009 Colleen Hughes  
2010 Maria Golden  
2011 Kaitlin Brennan  
2012 Maura Sugg  
2013 Erin Mullin

2006 Michelle Scotto  
2007 Molly Caso  
2008 Kendra Shockley  
2009 Madison Davenport  
2010 Blake Owens  
2011 Kelly Boyle  
2012 Sarah Bartels  
2013 Maddie McGrail

\* Deceased

*(Editor's Note: You can read more about Coach Tweed and his football teams in the November 15, 2012 Hist-O-Gram, which is part of the November-December 2012 group of Hist-O-Grams available at: <http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2012%20Hist-O-Grams/Nov-Dec%202012.pdf>.)*

## **Family Files now number 8,300**

The volunteers who spend Sunday and Thursday afternoons clipping and pasting newspaper articles, and WCU student Michael Homan, who constantly updates all the online information on our 8,300 Family Files cards in our Archives, continue to make progress. That total means we have Family File cards on more than 8,300 individuals who have a connection with the Downingtown area.

The cards are filed by each individual's last name, and the first letter of their first name. And many cards contain more than one article.

Articles, which are clipped from local newspapers and pasted on Family File cards, include engagements, weddings, deaths, retirements, achievements, promotions, etc. Though most of the articles were published in papers sometime after 1969, we have begun collecting older articles from local newspapers which are on microfilm.

To see if we have any information on your family members, click on the online indexes on our website, [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). You may be surprised.

## **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](http://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](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## It's on Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Twp.



Morris Farnum is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the barn, pictured above, as on Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Township. By the way, more people sent us responses (several were correct, but were received after Morris's) on this **Where and What Is This?** competition than we had ever received before. And most of those people had never participated in the contest in the past. We suspect that so many people had responded when we ran this photo for the second time this week because so many subscribers assume that someone always identifies the location of the photo as soon as each Hist-O-Gram is released. Obviously, that's not true.

### **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**

### ***Halloween Parade***

The Downingtown Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, October 26, starting in front of Beaver Creek School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, then heading east to Kerr Park, where judging will take place. You must be in the parade in order to be judged. Small cash prizes will be awarded to the three winners in several categories. No political entries will be allowed in the parade. No registration or fee is required to enter the parade. You can find details regarding the Halloween Parade by going to [www.dtownchristmas.com](http://www.dtownchristmas.com), and clicking on the Halloween Parade tab on the left hand side. If you have questions, call Dianne at 610-269-4203 or email [dtownhalloween@aol.com](mailto:dtownhalloween@aol.com).

### ***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 <http://www.downtownlibrary.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 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.downingtownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtownlibrary.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.downingtownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org) or call 610-269-2741.

### ***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.

### ***Senior Center's Harvest Hop***

7-11 PM Saturday, November 9, Griffith Hall at Ludwig's Fire Co.

Enjoy Swine, Wine & Brew Too!!! Featuring a fabulous Pig Roast and our signature drink: Apple Pie. Live Music provided by local band: Holt 45. Basket Raffles, Beer-A-Mid Raffle, Games & More.

Benefits Downingtown Area Senior Center. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Reservations are \$40 per person (tickets are held for guests at the door). Cost includes: buffet dinner, local craft beer and selection of wines. For ticket reservations, or sponsorship

opportunities, call Sue McIntyre at 610.269.3939 or email Sue directly at [Susan.McIntyre@downingtownseniors.org](mailto:Susan.McIntyre@downingtownseniors.org).

### ***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.

### ***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)