



Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant.

Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news in November 1977

The following news items were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* 36 years ago.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, celebrated its **75th anniversary**. A history of the church was written by Jane Davidson. Members of the anniversary committee were: Carolyn Hadfield, chairman; Dixie Shirk, Wanda Snyder, Anna Grube, Isabelle Collins and Belle Murray.

Edward Gillespie, Downingtown, was invited to serve as a delegate on the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services in Harrisburg.

Sharon Forbes, who had been an exchange student in Finland the past summer, spoke to members of the **Downingtown Golden Age Club**.

Paul Ciotti and Jerry Ware were drum majors of the 150-member **DHS marching band**.

DHS sophomore Mary Jefferies won the District I girls' **cross-country championship**, and came in fourth at the state championships.

Colleen Murtaugh, Nancy Urban, Ronnie Dellamotta and Kathy Herion were named to the **All Ches-Mont field hockey team**.

Whippets named to the **All Ches-Mont soccer team** were Jamie Bogush, Darryl Bull, Leigh Hannum, Jeff Davis and Scooter Farling. And Paul Hurley was cited as Coach of the Year.

The expansion of **Downingtown Junior High School** was dedicated. The \$3.4 million project, which included a wing for the PE and music departments, increased the school's capacity to 893 pupils.

Recent **property transfers** included: 802 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, \$44,700; 1365 Ridgeview Circle, West Bradford, \$53,900; 418 Carmarthen Court, Uwchlan, \$442,940; 98 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$65,000; 10 Waterview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$58,000; 126 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$43,655; 13 Dogwood Lane, West Pikeland, \$105,000.

Borough councilman Fank Manetta won a prize for the costume he wore in Downingtown's **Halloween parade**, which was sponsored by the Optimist Club.

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

Members of the **Uwchlan Hills School Home and School Association** responsible for the Book Fair were Kitty Aughey, Carol Mowday, Ruth Ann Gillooly, Joyce Reinbrecht, Anne Buell, Kay Buhner and Linda Rogers.

The 277 DHS students who took the **SAT exams** averaged 458 in the verbal test and 482 in math. National averages for college-bound pupils who took the two tests were 429 in verbal and 471 in math.

Bethel AME Church, Downingtown, celebrated its 85th anniversary by having a banquet at St. Anthony's Lodge. Members of the anniversary committee were Isabelle Robinson, Diane Horsey, Helen Watson, Earl Thomas, Barbara Asparagus and Viola Asparagus.

Downingtown's borough council said it would not provide at least one police officer to minimize traffic problems and accidents on streets in the DHS area because, Council President Vince DiEuliis said, the high school is a regional facility, serving students from seven townships as well as the borough.

The attorney, who presided over a five-day appeal hearing in July, ruled that Chester County had an excess number of acute care beds and that the **Bishop Neumann Hospital** advisory committee had not been denied due process when its plan to build a \$23.8 million facility on the Caln-Downingtown border was rejected.

Jane's Tavern won the **flag football league**, sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Commission, when it beat National Security 26-0. Touchdowns were scored by Brian Boggs, Mike Massimini and Pat Dougherty.

Tearing down a house built in 1750 so additional parking would be available for members and guests of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** on West Lancaster Avenue was temporarily halted when Helen Filoromo, chair of the borough's Historical Commission, complained that the work was being done without a permit.

DHS students chosen to attend the annual Student Management Conference, sponsored by **Lukens Steel Co.**, were Rob Rambo, John Dagher, Steve Wisdom and Anne Kennedy.

In the Downingtown School District, 755 students attended **private or parochial schools** during the 1977-78 school year. That was a 13.8% increase over the previous school year.

Ellis Brown, coach of the undefeated **Lionville Junior High** football squad, was honored at the team banquet. Also cited were Fed Dellamotta, outstanding back, and Dave McNamara, outstanding lineman.

Fourth graders at West Ward School in 1955



Caroline Ash provided this 1955 photo of her fourth grade class at West Ward School, Downingtown, taught by Florence Moore. Members of the class, identified in vertical rows, were: first row, Barbara Thompson, Ernestine Boggs, Harold Stewart, Carol Lee Thomas, Mary E. Englerth, Helen Lawrence; second row, Carol Miller, Caroline Ash, Grant Smith, George Fredd, Ruth Ann Wilson, Gerald Perkins; third row, Paula Tweed, Donna Thompson, Joyce Stern, Nancy Katherman, Gerald Matthews, David Pollock; fourth row, Mark Jones, Tommy Williams, Suzanne Berkey, Barbara Heidelbaugh, Harry Stong; fifth row, James McCausland, Clifford Murdaugh, Helen Simmons, Mary Ann Chilla, Robert Mendenhall.

(Editor's Note: Got any classroom shots from when you were a pupil in a Downingtown area school? We'd love to publish them, as long you can provide the students' names as well.)

No one identified where this barn is located



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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

Your last chance to win 12 dinners worth \$250 each

The Downingtown Area Historical Society is conducting a Restaurant Raffle. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and the lucky winner will receive vouchers for 12 dinners. Each voucher, which are transferrable, has a value of \$250 and a total value of \$3,000, to be spent at the participating restaurants. They include: Beaver Creek Tavern, Dilworthtown Inn, Duling-Kurtz, Eagle Tavern, Four Dogs Tavern, General Warren Inn, Grill at Fore, Kimberton Inn, The

Orangery, Ship Inn, Thorndale Inn, and Yellow Springs Inn. In most cases, the vouchers aren't useable on weekends and don't cover alcoholic beverages.

Names of the winners will be drawn at a party for all ticket purchasers, which will begin at 4 PM Sunday, Oct. 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant. And consolation prizes—including a \$500 Wine Sampler, and two Bed & Breakfast stays, one night each for two—will be awarded at the drawing party, where light refreshments will be served.

Tickets, which cost \$75 each, can be purchased by calling: the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Darryl Ferron, president, 610-679-2425; or Carol Grigson, treasurer/archivist, 610-269-5413. You also can buy tickets by coming to Ashbridge House, between 2 PM and 4 PM on Sundays. Tickets are tax-deductible since the Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

If you need more information, send an email to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help maintain Ashbridge House, and preserve the historical materials, photos and artifacts in our archival collection.

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.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, **Making Sense of Medicare** - Presenter, Ellen Good, MSW, will speak about how Medicare works, managing your plan, cost issues, and how to maximize coverage. Program includes question/answer session. Program will be from 6:30-7:30pm.

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.

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.

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