



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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September 12, 2013

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.

Hot news in the Downingtown area in October 1977

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* 36 years ago.

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, reported that 37 percent (608) of DHS students participated in at least one sport. That's a 9 percent increase, compared to the previous (1976-77) school year.

Chairpersons for Messiah Lutheran Church's fall bazaar were Rhoda Robertson, Lillian Friedline, Barbara Dillman, Brenda McDade, Doris Zelina, Betty Petrie, Wanda Snyder and Karen Shirk.

Faculty members of the Sunday School at Central Presbyterian Church were Evelyn Hamilton, Harry Rauch, Ralph Belknap, Janet Stockoff, Mary Otto, Margie Stoudt, Karen Guglielmo, Joyce Brink, Judy Bullock, Edna Ross, Ginny Weikel, John Holloway, and Frank and Pat Morrison.

New officers of the Downingtown Area Educational Secretaries Association were Anita Ayoub, president; Phyllis Mattson, vice president; Shirley Nelms, secretary; and Barbara Mento, treasurer.

Elected as officers of the St. Joseph's Home and School Association were Dale Donaldson, president; Dennis McBride, vice president; Madelyne Carlin, recording secretary; Leah Rivera, corresponding secretary; and Marge Jacobson, treasurer.

Lionville Junior High won its first soccer match, beating Upper Merion 4-0. Vince Forgione had two goals, and Joe Woodward and Kurt Kessler each had one. Also, Coach Steve Curtis attributed the Downingtown Junior High's 2-1 victory over Great Valley in the Lancers' first match win to the play of Dale Russel, Larry Protivnak, David Hammer, David Zynn and Robbie Van Lew.

DHS seniors who achieved Commended status in the National Merit Scholarship program were John Dagher, Arthur Griffith, Michael Ehr Gott, Edward Zink, Mike Whiteman, Millard Ryan and Steve Waldron.

Wallace Township celebrated its 125th birthday by publishing an 116-page book, noting highlight's of the township's past. Local artists whose maps and illustrations were in the book include Sandra Brannan, Jane Davidson, Joyce and Sabrina Vourvoulias, Kathleen Stevens, Jennifer and Elizabeth Antrim, John Shrader, Edward D'Alessandro, Elsie Sinex, Vivian Piersol, Doris Boothroyd, Mary Kelly, Henry McNeill, William Brewster, Toni Wright, Larry Taylor and Sally Caspar.

By a 5-4 vote, the Downingtown Area School Board shot down a proposal to ban smoking by employees in school district facilities.

Karen Hall was elected Queen, and Downingtown Postmaster Jack Helm was the Honored Guest at the DHS Homecoming. Better yet, the Whippets beat Spring-Ford to even their record to 3-3. Members of the Homecoming court were Anita Kauffman, Lori Novak, Kathy Ursini, Valerie Hadfield, Debbie Gaffney, Susan Kallmeyer, Kathy Stelzer, Sharon Stellabott and Luann Creamer.

Recent property transfers included: 331 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$34,700; 28 Winding Way, East Caln, \$82,000; 1403 Carriage Lane, West Bradford, \$51,300; 401 Rennard Drive, Uwchlan, \$60,500; 584 Corner Ketch Road, East Brandywine, \$56,900.

Restaurant Raffle winner will receive 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 with 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.

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 1 PM and 4 PM on Sundays.

If you need more information, send an email to:

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.

Capt. Eicholtz was a leader of GAR Post and Alert Fire Co.

This article is part of a continuing series about local Civil War veterans who were charter members of the Hancock GAR Post 255, based in Downingtown.

Captain George C. M. Eicholtz was the Hancock Post's first commander. His brother, James, also served with the Union during the Civil War. And during the mid-19th Century, his father, Henry, owned the Pennsylvania House Hotel on West Lancaster Avenue.

Before he joined the 53rd Pennsylvania Volunteers as a private in 1861, he was an agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad. By 1862, he had been promoted to Captain, the same year he suffered wounds in two battles. The wound he sustained in his ankle at Fredericksburg, VA, was so severe, he was forced to resign his commission, and he was granted a disability pension.

Eicholtz returned to Chester County and was elected Register of Wills in 1863. During the post-Civil War period, he also was employed by the U.S. Appraisers Office in the U.S. Customs agency in Philadelphia, until 1868, when he became the proprietor of the drug store at 207 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Eicholtz sold the business to Howard Sides in 1878, and Sides sold the pharmacy to Raymond Greenleaf in 1929. Greenleaf operated the business until 1964, according to his son, Don Greenleaf.

And in 1873, Eicholtz built "one of the more impressive and elegant mansions in town for his two sisters and himself," near the intersection of Highland and Stuart Avenues in the borough, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*.

He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, and was on the original board of directors of the Downingtown Building and Loan Association, established in 1874.

Eicholtz was the third President of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. No. 1, from 1890 to 1898, according to Jeff Stevens, chairman of the Fire Company's historical committee. The company was founded in 1887. His family presented a painting (see portrait below) of Eicholtz to the fire company. During Eicholtz's tenure, the Alerts built their first firehouse in 1891, at 17 Downing Ave. (now an apartment house). Before then, their hand-drawn ladder truck and buckets had been housed at the Excelsior Paint Store on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough.

And, in 1892, they purchased a horse-drawn Silsby steam fire engine, which members of the current Downingtown Fire Department pull by hand in the Downingtown Christmas Parade.

Eicholtz died in 1899, after he was mortally injured in a train crash near Exeter, PA, in Berks County. He is buried at The Woodlands cemetery in Philadelphia.

You can access an extensive history of the Alert Fire Co. by clicking on:

<http://alertfire.org/history.php>.



This painting of Capt. Eicholtz, donated by his family, hangs in the Alert Fire Hall.

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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

It's at 400 Washington Ave., Downingtown



Gregg Nelms is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the above photo (taken by Mike Dunn) in last week's Hist-O-Gram as the house at the southeastern corner of Washington Avenue and Chestnut Street in Downingtown. It had been the early 20th Century residence of the Jeremish T. Carpenter family. Carpenter operated a furniture and casket making business on Brandywine Avenue, near the intersection of Lancaster Avenue. He was one of the charter member of the Hancock GAR Post in Downingtown. And according to Stan Landis, the Sheehy sisters—Anna, Mary and Lucy—lived there in the mid-20th Century.

The bed bugs were in Fisherville, not Bondsville

Trying to determine where “Bed Bug Row” was located has kept us up at night. The mystery was created when several Hist-O-Gram readers claimed that the workers' houses in the Bondsville area, pictured in the **Where and What Is This** photo in the August 22 edition, were known as “Bed Bug Row.”

Well, Lois Demchak, Carole Davis Turner and Phyllis Deets have solved the mystery. All of them explained to us that the mill workers' housing in Fisherville was the location of "Bed Bug Row" and not in Bondsville.

In fact, a small, oval sign on the first house in the row of mill workers' residences in Fisherville notes that the neighborhood was known as "Bed Bug Row."

Since we're no longer bugged by that mystery, we all can sleep at night.

Classified Advertisements

Paid ads for businesses

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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.
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Free ads for local non-profits

5K Orchard Mud Run

The second annual "Hard to the Core" 5K Orchard Mud Run will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 at Weaver's Orchard, 40 Fruit Lane, Morgantown. The race is sponsored by OneRunTogether, a non-profit organization that helps cancer patients financially. Participants will run through an orchard while traveling over obstacles such as water and mud holes, hay bales and more. Registration for the 5K and one-mile walk will be from 7AM to 8:20 AM, The 5K will begin at 8:30 AM, followed by the walk at 9 AM.

Registration fees on the day of the race are: \$55 for adults (13+) and \$25 for kids (8-12) in the 5K, and \$5 for the one-mile walk. Children under 7 may participate in either event free.

Participants will receive a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. Breakfast will be available for non-participants for a fee.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place male and female finishers in the 5K. There also will be prizes for males and females in each of these age brackets: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over. There will be an awards ceremony at 9:30 AM. Runners in the 5K will receive T-shirts.

OneRunTogether was founded by Vern Murphy, who lost his wife to cancer. The organization's mission is to host races and other fundraisers to benefit cancer patients in need.

For more info about OneRunTogether, check out: <http://www.oneruntogether.org/races/>

Free Community Concerts

The Brandywine Area Community Choir, directed by Steve McFalls, will present two free concerts this fall. The first will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 460 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 7 PM. the second will be at East Brandywine Baptist Church, 999 Horseshoe Pike, Downingtown, on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 7 PM.

The concerts are titled "An Evening with Gaither Gospel and a Stirring Salute to Our Patriots."

The gospel portion will include Gaither numbers and "spirited" spiritual music. The men's chorus will present several patriotic numbers, including the emotionally moving *Count the Costs* and a newly arranged version of our *National Anthem*. The entire chorus will finish the program with a

rousing rendition of the Service Songs from each branch of our military, which will honor active-duty as well as military veterans in the audience. The concert will end with the powerful Willhousky arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Combining patriotic and spiritual passion, this choir of 50+ members, representing over a dozen different churches, will entertain and inspire the audience with this evening of music. The St. Joseph's concert will benefit The Travis Manion Foundation, which supports our military and veterans. The East Brandywine concert will benefit One Run Together, a charity founded to assist families of cancer patients. Freewill offerings will be accepted in support of these charities at each concert.

Girl Scout sign-up ends Sept. 12

Registration and Information night for new Girl Scouts will be held on Thursday September 12 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at Downingtown United Methodist Church, 751 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enter from the back of the building. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5 through 17, or in grades K-12. For more information contact GirlScoutsDtown@verizon.net.

Downingtown Day

Downingtown Historical & Parks Commission will host the 2nd annual Downingtown Day at Kerr Park on Saturday, September 14 from 9 AM to 6 PM. This free event will feature entertainment, food, an art/craft show, First Responders ceremony, and live music from Nicole Ehinger and the Chester County Lawmen. For more information, visit www.dtownhpc.org.

Health & Wellness Coordinator

Needed for a busy, non-profit senior adult activity center in Downingtown. Ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter who enjoys working independently and as a member of a team, and will have a passion for working with the elderly. Candidate will ideally hold certification to instruct group exercise, though training can be provided. Position is part-time (28 hours per week). Position requires round-trip travel to and from Elverson, twice weekly; transportation is required. Salary range is \$12.54 - \$15.35 per hour; commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should submit their resume and salary requirements via email to:

bill.pierce@downingtownsensors.org. No phone inquiries please; EOE.

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