



**Downingtown Area Historical Society**

## **Hist-O-Gram**

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

*The past is never done. It is not even past-William Faulkner*

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## **Where and What Is This?**



The first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## 1909 edition of *Archive* focused on fatality resulting from huge fire at Bicking Paper Co. in Downingtown

Ralph Entriiken, a 17-year-old DHS student, suffered a fractured skull and was killed instantly when a 90-foot, iron chimney fell on him while he was helping to fight a huge fire on December 23, 1909 at the multi-story Bicking Paper Co. at Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues, where the Stella Rosa Restaurant is now located in the borough.

According to the December 24, 1909 edition of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper, the fire was discovered by employees, and an alarm was sounded at about 3 PM. Due to gale-force winds, the fire quickly spread over most of the Bicking property. But due to “the almost super-human efforts” and “miraculous work” by members of the recently-formed Minquas Fire Co. and the Alert Fire Co., prevented the fire from getting out of control and spreading to nearby buildings. Some 30 members of Coatesville’s Washington Fire Co. assisted the Downingtown firemen fight the blaze. The leadership skills of Jesse Roberts, fire marshal, and chiefs John Corcoran and Andy Breese were cited by the newspaper.

The fire, which was under control by about 5 PM, resulted in the destruction of the mill and its equipment. Most of the \$35,000 loss was partially covered by insurance.

A Christmas program, planned to be held at the high school, was cancelled due to Entriiken’s tragic death.

**Editor’s Note:** The December 24, 1909 issue of *The Archive* is the only 1909 edition known to be available on microfilm. However, we suspect that many Hist-O-Gram subscribers have actual copies of other editions of the weekly newspaper, published between 1873 and 1974, taking up valuable space in drawers and collecting dust in their homes. If you’re willing to pass your copies of *The Archive*, the *Daily Local News* or the *Coatesville Record*, on to the Historical Society, please contact us at: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items were published in local newspapers in the early part of August 1962:

Margaretta Mahan Helm was elected chairman of the **Downingtownt Democratic Committee**. Other officers were Joseph Masterson, vice chairman; Helen Bird, secretary; Jane Ensinger, treasurer; Copeland Nichols, publicity chair; and Maurice Bird, registration chair.

Among the local youngsters who exhibited their **4-H animals** at the Kimberton Fair were Nancy and Charles Martin, Elizabeth and Mary Louise Herr, Samuel and Joan Acker, and Yvonne Evans.

Winners in the hopscotch competition at the **East Ward playground** were Debbie and Joyce Beam, Caroline Kline, Cindy Lee and Billy Snyder. And hopscotch winners at the **Lionville playground** included Pat Dunn, Darlene Windle and Mary Jane Panetti. Winners in the hobo competition at **Beaver Creek playground** were: Brenda Murphy, Joe DiBerardinis, Darlene and Denine Koth, Gary Bogush, Cel Tremul and Larry Charles. At the **Marshallton playground**, winners in the treasure hunt were Patty and Dennis Riggins, Jerry Barwell, Jerry and Don Wood, Bill and Tom Perdue, and Sandy and Jackie Weir.

Officers re-elected at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual **Old Romansville School reunion** included May Osborn, president; Walter Shofstall, vice president; Mrs. Dennie Smith, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Rena Love, recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. James Marsh and Mrs. Franklin Beale, entertainment co-chairs.

Rev. James Bartholomew was the new rector of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown. He succeeded Rev. Alfred Vail.

New officers of the **Downingtown Woman's Club's** Garden Class were Mrs. Lawrence Billau, chairman; Mrs. Arthur Anderson, vice chairman; Mrs. Ethan Berry, treasurer; and Mrs. Kenneth Woods, secretary. Committee chairs were: Mrs. John Frankenfield, conservation and birds; Mrs. Walter Hadfield, grounds and landscape design; Mrs. Ralph Kent, exhibits; Mrs. William Bender, horticulture; Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, finance; and Mrs. Edwin Johnson, flower show.

John W. B. Bausman and Harold Wilson were appointed to **Uwchlan Township's** Board of Supervisors by Chester County Judges Thomas Gawthrop and Thomas Riley. The appointments ended a controversy, which began when Board Chairman Charles Becker voted for John Sciamanda to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Devaney, who resigned earlier in the year. However, Sciamanda was not a registered voter at the time he was appointed, and then he made things more complicated when he, as well as Becker, voted to appoint Charles Martin as a supervisor, to fill the position of Russell Miller, who also had resigned. But Republican committeeman Harry Ruth joined the fray and circulated petitions, successfully advocating that Bausman and Wilson to fill the supervisor vacancies.

## **Rising from the ashes: Fine dining at the Eagle Tavern**

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen Meacham. She and her husband, Ron, won the grand prize—meals at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the “A Taste of Chester County” restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society last fall.

*The Eagle Tavern of Chester Springs has a history of reinventing itself since its first license was issued in 1727. Built on the fork of two main roads, back then it could be found “Halfway between Chester and Conestoga on the King’s Road”. Today, more simply, it is located on Route 100, one mile north of the PA Turnpike, in the village of Eagle. The Tavern has had many name changes over the years including the President Adams, Spread Eagle, The Little Eagle and The Eagle Hotel. After a disastrous fire several years ago, the new owners reopened the restaurant, keeping the name and it has remained a popular spot for local citizens and travelers to Chester County’s farm area.*

*We were seated in the more intimate, small dining room off the main entrance. Our appetizers included Eagle Shrimp wrapped in bacon, large shrimp cocktail, and a wonderfully flavored Crab Pannikin. The well prepared filet mignon, mahi, and wild mushroom entrees, as well as the sea bass special, combined a variety of flavors for a delicious experience. The portions were more than adequate, thus we went home with several wonderful desserts including cannolis, lemon & cream cake, and a delicious cheesecake/carrot cake combination. Our dinner was complemented with selections from their wine list and bar. Good service and engaging conversation with the manager, made this dine out a winner.*

*We want to thank The Eagle Tavern for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society’s “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.*

## **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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).



## It's at 477 Dilworth Road in East Brandywine



Gregg Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 477 Dilworth Road in East Brandywine Township. The original part of the house was built in 1750. During much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Dilworth and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dilworth.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Carol Grigson, treasurer and archivist; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague and Phil Dague.*

## **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.

### **Multi-Family Yard Sale**

8 AM to 1 PM Saturday, August 16 at 429 Chesterfield Drive, Downingtown. Antiques, Christmas & Household items, etc.

## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***“The Blob” to be shown at Kerr Park***

The Downingtown Main Street Association will screen the 1958 version of "The Blob" in Kerr Park on Saturday night. The event will begin at 8 PM with Phil Dague (Mr. Downingtown) hosting "Blob Trivia" until it is dark enough to start the movie around 8:30 PM. The movie will be shown in the park near the Concert Pavilion (white gazebo), and is FREE. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The movie will be over by 9:45, so bring a blanket or your lawn chairs; and enjoy this fun classic that was partially filmed here in Downingtown.

### ***Run For the Parks & Community Day***

East Brandywine's Community Day on Saturday, August 23 begins at the Community Park at 8 AM with registration for a 5K run, 3K walk and 1K kids' walk, which start at 9:30 AM. Other events, starting at 11 AM, include: Shriners clowns on cycles, bagpipers and drummers, hay rides, a fire company rescue demos, pony rides, free bingo, antique and classic cars, crafts and lots of delicious food.

### ***Teri's Run & Walk***

13<sup>th</sup> annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk for Scleroderma will be held on Friday, September 5. The evening's events include: 6:30 PM – Kids Run, 7 PM – 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk, 8 PM – Awards Ceremony. Chip-Timed Walk and Run on fast, flat, spectator-friendly course that starts on Green Street in Downingtown. The run is dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle to Scleroderma. Register Online at [www.terisrun.org](http://www.terisrun.org).

### ***Log House Art & Craft Show***

The Borough of Downingtown is looking for vendors for its annual Log House Art & Craft Show, to be held Sunday, September 21, from noon - 4 PM at Kerr Park. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Handmade art, crafts and photography only. Those interested in learning more or applying to participate can visit the website: [www.downingtowntown.org](http://www.downingtowntown.org) or call 610-269-0344.

### ***DHS Class of 1964 reunion***

Update: Although the registration deadline has passed, there is still room to reserve your spot for your 50th Class Reunion. Contact Judi Grubb Supplee at [jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com](mailto:jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com) ASAP. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. Due to construction at DHS West, the homecoming date was moved to Oct. 17. So there will be no parade on Sept. 25. However, as part of the reunion, the class still plans to attend the football game on Friday night, Sept 26. For more information see: <http://dhsclassof64.org/>.

### ***2 winners will get a playhouse***

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: [www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous](http://www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous).

### ***Log House Dinner Raffle***

Winner of the raffle will win a dinner for four at the Downingtown Log House on Lancaster Avenue. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. To purchase raffle tickets—\$50 each—call Ginny Pierce, 610-269-2750. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Senior Center's Harvest Hop on November 8.

**Brochure on DARC classes & activities**

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

**Farmers Market**

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo area of Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

**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 at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday 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).