



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 5, No. 34

August 21, 2014

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.

July 4th festivities in 1911 included a female parachutist

One of the big attractions, planned for the coming July 4th celebration in the borough, according to the June 24, 1911 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*, was a “lady parachutist” who would reach a “great height.” She apparently would leap from one of the two hot air balloons launched as part of the Independence Day festivities in the borough that afternoon.

Downingtown’s Business Men’s Association, which sponsored the July 4th celebration, also planned a baseball game, a cornet band concert and fireworks.

Another story in the 1911 edition was about a “porch party,” a fundraiser conducted one evening in June by the women of Downingtown Methodist Church. The party was held on the front porches of about half of the houses along Washington Avenue, between Chestnut and Green Streets, in the borough. On sale on the porches were candy, cakes, ice cream, and lemon and orange drinks. And to draw a large turnout, the town band played at one end of Washington Avenue, and an orchestra played at the other end.

Also noted in that issue was the hiring of Eleanor Robinson, by the East Brandywine Township School Board, for a salary of \$40 per month.

Local news originally published 52 years ago

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

Officers of the **Lionville School PTA** were Gilbert Zellwanger, president; Mrs. Eric Bittmann, vice president; Mrs. Howard Stimson, secretary; Edward Panetti, treasurer;

Edward Novak, director of the Downingtown Area Recreation Summer Program reported that winners of the jumping contest at the **Lionville playground** were Steve Long, Clair Koser and Bob Dunn. And hopscotch winners were Helen Bittmann and Linda Wunsch.

Winners of the hobby show competition at the **Beaver Creek playground** were Grace DiBerardinis, Jane Forbes, Donald Lawrence, Betsy Robbins, Susie Geschwindt, Cel Tremul and Denine Koth. Hobby show winners at the **Marshallton playground** were Mike Riggins, Jerry Barwell and Garner Haines. And winners of the doll show contest at **East Ward playground** were Donna Usher, Missy Fidler, Kathy Valente, Mary Ann Natalie, Ricky McCardell, Terry Davis, Chuckie Daylor, Diana Lynn, Brenda Murray, Caroline Kline, Robin Thomas and Debbie Beam.

There was a choice of several styles of new houses being offered in the **Whitford Hills** development, adjacent to the Whitford Country Club. Price ranged from \$19,500 to \$30,500.

Marshallton Boy Scouts who went to Camp Horseshoe for a week were Robert Caldwell, Larry Amoriello, William Fowler, Ronald Donnon, Carl Harper, Joseph Kirkner, Steven Phillips, and Charles and Ronald Williams.

Boys from the **Glenmoore team**, who were named to the Twin Valley Pony League all-star team, were Barry Ortlip, Rick Harter, Gene Hannum, Bob Myers and Teddy Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Taylor, original owners of the **Dutch Cupboard** on Bondsville Road, Thorndale, sold the restaurant to Albert Mantini, who renamed the restaurant as the Dutch Arms. Currently, the restaurant is known as the **Thorndale Inn**.

Armand Taraschi, a “fiery councilman” who was a recently elected member of the Downingtown Borough Council, attacked plans to sell the borough’s water to neighboring municipalities because that would hinder Downingtown’s potential growth.

Winners of the balloon contest at the **Pickering Valley Women’s Club** picnic were Forrest and Loretta Gottier, Bruce Lockhart, Skip Briggs and Floyd Emery. The picnic committee included Mrs. Wilbur McQueen, Mrs. Ralph Moore, Mrs. Richard Wheatley and Nancy McQueen.

It's at 361 Fillman Road in Uwchlan Township



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as 361 Fillman Road in Uwchlan. Although the house appears to be older, it allegedly was built in 1880.

Visit us at East Brandywine's Community Day

The Historical Society will have a booth at East Brandywine's Community Day, held on Saturday August 23 at the township park at 466 Dilworth Road. The day begins at 8 AM with registration for the 5K run, 3K walk and 1K kids' walk, which start at 9:30 AM. Other events, starting at 11 AM, include: Shriner clowns on cycles, bagpipers and drummers, hay rides, fire company rescue demos, pony rides, free bingo, antique and classic cars, crafts and lots of delicious food. Everyone should bring a non-perishable food item for the Lord's Pantry, and receive a Chick-Fil-A coupon.

Seeking more women who served with a military medical unit

Three Downingtown area women, who served with the military in a medical-related capacity during a wartime period, have agreed to participate in a program planned by the Historical Society. They are Madeleine Woodruff and Julia Pollock, who both served as Army nurses during WW II, and Maureen Hayburn, who was part of a Red Cross unit in Viet Nam. The program is planned to be held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters, on a Sunday afternoon this Fall. Instead of making formal speeches, the women will talk about how and why they served in the military during a wartime period.

That means we're still seeking women, who served in a medical-related capacity during the wars in Korea or Iraq or Afghanistan, to participate in the panel discussion. Women who are interested in helping to make this program a success should send an email to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org, or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037,

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. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

If you missed last week's Hist-O-Gram, you can see it by clicking on:

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2014%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2014%202014%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

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.
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Contact: vance_usher@netzero.com, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, will have its annual Bar-B-Que 4-7 PM Saturday, August 23. Eat-in or take-out. \$13 for a dinner: half of chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage.

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

13th 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.

Class of 1954 reunion

The DHS Class of 1954 will have its 60th reunion at Whitford Country Club on Saturday, Sept 20, beginning at noon with a social hour, followed by a dinner 1 PM. For more info, please contact frank.manetta620@comcast.net. Send reservations to Frank Manetta 620 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, Pa 19335.

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 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 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.

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. 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 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.