



## 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*

Vol. 5, No. 35

August 28, 2014

## Where and What Is This?



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

## Downingtown area news published 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of September 1978.

Glyn Jenkins, president of the **Downingtown Area Education Association**, said the new contract called for teachers to get an average raise of \$1,100. The two-year package included an 8.5 percent boost the first year, and an 8 percent raise the second year.

More than \$3.9 million, which was 32.1 percent of the **Downingtown Area School District's** total revenue (\$12.4 million), came from the state during the 1977-78 school year. Federal funds amounted to \$149,416 (1.2 percent), and revenue from local sources totaled \$8.2 million (66.7 percent).

**Glen Wagner**, who had been president of the Downingtown Area School Board for seven years, resigned because of ill health. Wagner, a Lyndell resident and executive vice president of G.O. Carlson Co., Thorndale, first became involved with local schools when he joined the East Brandywine Township School Board more than 25 years earlier.

Members of the Sunday School staff at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were: Sylvia Kipp, Erna Napoletano, Susan Hunt, Betty Petri, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradford, John Bradford, Jane Westley, Mary Forbes, Yvonne Petrillo, Martha Cohen, Fred Ford, Doris Zelina, Mary King, Len Snyder, Karen and Steve Shirk, Jane Davidson and Rev. Barry Ridge.

Recent **property transfers** included: 56 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$85,581; 1660 Suzanne Drive, West Bradford, \$68,000; 213 Llandoverly Drive, Uwchlan, \$50,990; 31 Norwood House Road, Downingtown, \$33,000; 134 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$68,500; 5 Marty Close Road, Wallace, \$65,900; 13 Christine Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$75,000.

Tenants at the John Riccardo's new **Four Js Mini Mall** at 123 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, were Talucci's Butcher Shop, the Bakery Outlet, Marvin's Garden, and Downingtown Travel Agency.

DHS **field hockey** coach Jean Shiffer acknowledged it definitely was a rebuilding year, with only two returning players with varsity experience—Jeanne Minahan and Joy Branahan. The only other seniors expected to see much varsity action were Kelly Garnett, Bonnie McKee and Amy Sten.

Returning letter winners on Coach Becky Desmond's DHS **girls' tennis team** were co-captains Debbie Hannum and Lauri Carcella, Kim Hess, Lisa Seymour and Pam Smith.

The **West Bradford Fire Company's** 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration included a parade with 90 pieces of firefighting equipment and the housing of two new Ward LaFrance pumpers—1,000-gallon and 750-gallon capacity—plus a 1973 Dodge rescue truck.

Rich McCarter's two homers led the Burroughs team to the **Downingtown Slo Pitch League** championships with a 4-3 win over the DiBernardi's Store squad.

Dick Chappell, chief umpire, presented mugs to following umpires at the **Downingtown Little League** banquet: Pete Karahalas, Pete Burkey, Ken Harmon, Brownie Sigel, Bill Zynn, Don Millward, John Hurley, Barry Sample, Pat Brown, Randy Noler, Ed Klunk, Tom Corrigan, Don Morrow, Les Winkler, John Rodgers and Don Barber.

Members of the Live Wire Bible Class executive board at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included Sara Brown, president; Mrs. Charles Steeley, vice president; Mrs. George Wagner, secretary; Mrs. Thomas Brookover, treasurer; Mrs. Attmore Pollock, past president; Mrs. Theodore Forbes, cheer chairman; and Mrs. Chester Woodward, ways and means chairman.

## More info about house at 361 Filman Road

Local historians Susannah Brody and MaryLou Buchenauer provided information on the house at 361 Filman Road in Uwchlan Township, which was in the What & Where Is This? photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram, allegedly was built in 1880. However, it looked like a much older building.

Buchenauer informed us that historian Estelle Cremer's research for the Uwchlan Township Historical Commission determined that William John probably built the house sometime between 1790 and 1820. And Brody told us that another local historian, Jane Davidson, had filed an application in 1980 for the house to be placed on the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places, noted that the Georgian style, stone and frame house was built ca. 1755.

Obviously, the construction date mystery has yet to be solved, but it's one of the reasons why history can be fun.

Buchenauer also sent us the photo below, of the beehive oven, which has been part of the house for many years. During the 18th and 19th centuries, many homes in the United States had a beehive ovens, which were used to bake bread, pies, crackers, or other baked goods. Coal and kindling were used to heat the oven.

## Beehive oven at 361 Filman Road in Uwchlan



## Bright moon, four dogs and a great meal

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

*The Four Dogs Tavern, originally the stable for the historic Marshalton Inn, offers a delightful, yet casual, dining experience. Located on Strasburg Road in Marshallton, the eatery served as a stopping point for travelers between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Since 1795, the building evolved from a stable with livestock, to a series of shops, housed within the original stalls. In 1978 it was converted to The Oyster Bar restaurant, and was renamed the Four Dogs Tavern in 1996, by its new owners. The tavern's emblem of four foxhounds—Marcano, Sereno, Lentenor and Nicanor—in a print by the famous French painter, Louis Jadin.*

*We were seated on the charming, outdoor patio, and by the end of the meal, were treated to a view of the much publicized bright moon. We enjoyed a series of appetizers, including a Spanish Cheese Plate, Crab Nachos and a wonderful Beet and Arugula salad. The main entrees were outstanding. Our guests raved about the Spicy Tuna, served in more than ample portions. The Horseradish Encrusted Salmon was unique and delicious, and the Filet of Beef was done to perfection. Key Lime Pie and Blueberry Ice Cream topped off the meals. The tavern offers a nice selection of beers and wine. Service was friendly and attentive.*

*The tavern is open year-round. No reservations are needed, but it's a busy place. So we recommend that you call ahead to get on the wait list. You can enjoy the patio in summer or the warmth of the fireplace in winter while listening to live music, and the restaurant is dog friendly. All in all, it is a fun place to dine.*

*We want to thank Four Dogs Tavern for their gracious donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's second annual “A Taste of Chester County” fundraiser.*

## Seeking women who served in military in any capacity

The Historical Society had broadened the scope of the planned panel program involving Downingtown area women who served in the military during wartime. Initially, we were going to limit the participants to those who served in a military-related capacity, but that limitation was too restrictive.

So, now the panel will be comprised of any Downingtown area women who served in **any capacity** in the military during WW II, Korea, Iraq or Afghanistan. And instead of making formal speeches, the women will talk about their experiences during a wartime period.

The program is planned to be held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters, on a Sunday afternoon this fall. Women who are interested in participating in this program should send an email to [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org) or call Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037.

**It's at 1658 Bondsville Road in East Brandywine Twp.**



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as the multi-family dwelling at 1658 Bondsville Road, across from the former Collins and Aikman plush mill, in East Brandywine Township.

## **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. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

*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.

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

### ***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)

### ***Class of 1954 reunion***

The DHS Class of 1954 will have its 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at Whitford Country Club on Friday, September 5, beginning at noon with a social hour, followed by a dinner at 1 PM. For more info, please contact [frank.manetta620@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.downingtowntown.org) or call 610-269-0344.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

***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).