

Please support our Hist-O-Gram appreciation drive



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

Where and What Is This?

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The first person to correctly identify the site, shown in the photo above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of November 1962.

The new **Downingtown Post Office**, 45 W. Lancaster Ave. (now at the site of Priori's Mattress Factory) was dedicated. Jack Welsh, longtime postmaster, said the new facility had been planned since 1938.

A new wage schedule for part-time employees was approved by the **Downingtown Joint High School Board**. The minimum was \$1.40 an hour, and the maximum was \$1.66. And Mrs. **Mary C. Foreman** retired after serving for 12 years as secretary of the High School Board, as well as the superintendent of school's secretary. She received a gift from the school district's teachers and a silver cup from the school board.

Officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co.**, who were unanimously re-elected, were Walter Fetherolf, president; Jack Hines Sr., vice president; Clarence Moore, treasurer; M.M. Caffey, secretary; Kenneth Trimble, director. Edwin Hill was a new member of the board.

Members of the Arts and Crafts Club, supervised by Rebecca Casner at **Downingtown Junior High School**, were Bill Inslee, Kathy Black, Jacob Dewees, Ben Mento, Dolores Stewart, Lynn Forbes, Linda Sheesley, Patty and Cheryl Myers, Cheryl Peppernick, Alan Heugh, Martin Berkey, Bill Kline, David Emberger, Rusty Geare, Judy Slaad, Gary Hoxter, Joan Poffenbarger, and Ronald and Donald Moore.

A Book Week program was presented at **Brandywine Wallace School** by the following students: William Stevens, Philip Williams, Teddy Reed, Tommy McCurdy, Linda Wagner, Jimmy Dougherty, Andy Parsons, Frank Swarner and Joey Seeds.

Officers of the Sunday School at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Charles Feiertag, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Benjamin Russell, treasurer; Joyce Felten secretary; and Mrs. Olin Siever, secretary.

Students in Elizabeth Ezra's third grade class at **East Ward School** presented a program on American Indians. Those who sang "Ten Little Indians" were Michele Boggs, Meegan Echols, Billy Stamper, Nancy Estheimer, Kathleen Trego, Charles Hinkley, Stephen Walton, Kathy Bennett, James Peppernick and Kathy Wayne. And the Indian names of the months in the year were explained by Robin Massimini, Sheila Suleski, George Phillips, Joy McLucas and Mary Ann Ursini.

New members invested into **Brownie Troop 205**, Downingtown, were Christine Dailey, Pat Mento, Gail Dague and Susan Romano. Those earning membership pins were Denise Anderson, Ellen DiLuigi, Pat DiSante, Robin Lawler, Linda Showalter, Elizabeth Watts, Donna Fazzini, Mary Beth Kaminski and Lynn Loftus.

Jonathan Styer was installed as master of the **Uwchlan Grange**. Also installed were Edwin Smedley, overseer; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer and Isabel Acker, secretary.

Although the **DHS football squad** was the underdog when it faced visiting Coatesville on Thanksgiving morning, there was reason for optimism. Despite a disappointing start, the Whippets had upset Great Valley, nipped Boyertown, and clobbered O.J. Roberts in their most recent three games. And Coach Ray DiSerafino's team came through, beating the Raiders 12-0. Key to the victory was Downingtown's defensive unit, which held Coatesville to 46 yards rushing and only one first down.

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Local news originally published 67 years ago

The following news items were retrieved from local papers which were published in the early part of June 1947.

Four of the 97 seniors who graduated from DHS at the **Class of 1947's** commencement, were World War II vets. Joseph Doran, class president, made the welcome address, and Edwin Carpenter was the master of ceremonies. Those who earned academic awards in various subjects were: English, Katherine Mosteller; Social Studies, Stanley Russell; Mathematics, Robert MacDougal; Science, Joseph Hemphill; Language, Gilda Fazzini; Commercial, Josephine Flynn; Home Economics, Virginia Wallace; Industrial Arts, Curtis Newell; and Art, Margaret Mitchell.

Joseph Eby won the competition to attend the **International Boy Scout Jamboree** in Paris. Eby received \$600 to help cover the trip's costs. The money was raised by the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the VFW, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Moose Lodge, the Odd Fellows, the P.O.S of A., and St. Anthony's Lodge. A sophomore at DHS and a member of Troop 2, Eby competed against four other Downingtown Boy Scouts to take a boat to France for the Jamboree. The other four contestants won a two-week stay at Camp Horseshoe.

Fourth graders at **Lionville Elementary School** who went on a sightseeing trip to Philadelphia were Carolyn and Esther Supplee, Barbara Rosenbaum, Kathleen Levensgood, Jack Benner, Rose Ann May. Shirley Matlack, Jerry Stinson and Shirley Drennan. Also, Lorraine received an award for perfect attendance. And Margaret Detweiler received an award for bringing the highest number of flower specimens for the school's flower chart.

Winners of races at the **Windsor School's** end-of-year picnic were Barbara and Bill Edwards, Larry Reed, Sammy Wimple, George Miller, Donald Powell, Doris Gottier, Shirley Wertz and Mark Sorenson.

New members of the **Lions Club** were Russell Curry, Frank Helm, James Fennelly John Priest, Lewis Lear and Herbert Kreider.

Font School students who received awards for perfect attendance were Doris and Janet Hoffman, Shirley Wenger and Alice Trego.

Members of the eighth grade, who graduated from the **Marshallton School**, were Robert Busby, Jane Romig, Anna Mulvoy, Raymond Fellenbaum, Horace Martin, Edward McCue, Margaret Gee, Rosemary Newman, Margaret DiMatteo, Lenora Dunn, Margaret Lied, Joseph Nichols and Nils Edward.

It takes a village to publish our Hist-O-Grams

Historical Society volunteers have been clipping, pasting and organizing newspaper articles about the Downingtown area for many years. But it wasn't until October 2010, that we realized what an asset those news articles are to us. That's when we recognized that lots of people are interested in reading about the recent past, especially when the news items are primarily about the people, churches, businesses, organizations and events they remember. And that's why we started sending Hist-O-Grams to members and friends of the Historical Society.

Sounds pretty simple. But it's not! It truly takes a village to crank out these Hist-O-Grams every week.

The articles originally published in local newspapers in the 1940s and 1960s, for example, have to be retrieved from local newspapers on microfilm at the Chester County Library. And although only a few of the articles we find on microfilm ultimately are included in a Hist-O-

Gram, many others are stored in our archival collection of newspaper files, which are divided into Family Files and Topical Files.

The Family Files include articles about local people's births, deaths, marriages, retirements, engagements, awards, etc., and they now include 10,000 cards which have articles on more than 16,000 Downingtown area people. The 104-page Topical Files Index includes articles on local governments, businesses, schools, churches, organizations, and events.

This is where the village aspect comes in: Organizing those thousands of articles would not have been possible without the efforts of two groups of volunteers, both of which are under the direction of our volunteer archivist, Carol Grigson. One group works on Topical File articles every Thursday afternoon. Another group comes on the first Sunday of the month to update the Family Files. The final step is handled by Michael Homan, who updates the Family Files Index. And the Topical Files Index has been streamlined by Jordan Staub, with the assistance of Lauren McCauley.

Now we're asking you to show your appreciation for the Hist-O-Grams, which are an integral part of our efforts to preserve local history. We're asking you to send us a generous donation because we're an all-volunteer, non-profit operation. Most of our annual budget is absorbed by expenses such as utility bills, insurance costs, our security system and typical maintenance. And membership fees don't come close to covering all those expenses. Also, we recently paid \$3,600 from our general operating funds to have the summer kitchen's stonework re-mortared.

But we still need to repair the leaking the stone wall on the east side of Ashbridge House, a project that will cost \$16,000.

That's why we're asking you to please send a tax-deductible donation to: DAHS, Post Office Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335 (or to use Paypal: [click here](#)). We are most grateful for your generosity. And EVERY subscriber will continue to receive our free Hist-O-Grams every week.

Appreciatively yours,

Parry Desmond, President
Downingtown Area Historical Society

Forgot to order Luminaria candle sets?

You can buy luminaria candles and/or reusable plastic bases from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1-4 PM on Sunday, Dec. 21 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln. Candle and bag sets and bases cost 75 cents each.

Christmas tree ornaments, depicting Downingtown historic sites, will also be on sale at those times.

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It's at 750 Little Washington Road in East Brandywine



No one identified the location of the house in the photo above, which is at 750 Little Washington Road in East Brandywine. The original section was built in 1830. For more info on the house, see: <http://www.liveinchestercountyarea.com/listing/mlsid/252/propertyid/6416445/>.

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, Phil Dague and Rahn Brackin.

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, 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.

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**DECORATE YOUR TREE WITH ORNAMENTS
DEPICTING HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SITES**

\$5 each or 3 for \$10

Buy your tree ornaments at Ashbridge House (next to Chick-Fil-A)

1-4 PM SUNDAYS

Mail order info: www.downtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Gift%20Shop.html



#1 Borough Hall



#2 Alert Fire Hall



#3 Minquas Fire Hall



#4 Old East Ward School



#5 West Ward School



#6 Jr-Sr High School



#7 Gazebo in Kerr Park

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.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Santa coming to Borough & East Caln

Santa's friends at the Alert Fire Co. have volunteered to drive him around the streets of Downingtown Borough and East Caln on a fire truck, to visit with kids in their neighborhoods, on Saturday, Dec. 20.

And Santa's Elves from the Alerts will give candy canes to good boys and girls. Santa will start in the West Ward of Downingtown at 9 AM and enter the East Ward in the early afternoon. Then he'll be in East Caln Twp. in mid to late afternoon. Santa doesn't know exactly what time he'll enter each neighborhood, but listen for the fire truck's sirens and horns.

Roberts supports Downingtown Library

Roberts Subaru in Downingtown has named the Downingtown Library as its Hometown Charity for the 2014-15 "Share the Love event. That means Subaru will donate \$250 for every Subaru vehicle it sells or leases between now and January 2, when the purchaser designates the Downingtown Library as their designated choice.

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. 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 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.

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