



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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## Where and What Is This?



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

# Local news items 52 years ago

Noted below are news items about the Downingtown area, which were originally published in local newspapers in early February 1962.

Members of **Cub Pack 79**, sponsored by Fairview Presbyterian Church, Glenmoore, who received one-year service stars were Jesse Baker, Harold Earnshaw, David Funk, Jeffrey and Gregory Hannum, Carl Harple, Danny and Mike Messner, George Quinn, Harvey Roeder, Carl Shrader, Louis Waldmann and Ricky Herter.

Newly elected officers of the Ladies Auxiliary of **St. Anthony's Lodge** were Laurie Reutter, president; Pat Panichelli, vice president; and Rose Castaldi, recording secretary.

Mrs. Robert Garrett, rural division chairman of the local **Red Cross** campaign, named the following township captains: Mrs. John Griggs, West Bradford; Mrs. Chester Zell, Wallace; Mrs. Stanley Walters, Caln; Mrs. Raymond Williams, East Caln; Edith Moore, Uwchlan; Mrs. Frank Crimp, Upper Uwchlan; and Mrs. John Mendenhall, East Brandywine.

**Downingtown Junior High** students who played in the Chester County Orchestra were Elise Cohen, first violin; Jack Trego, first alto saxophone; Gene Martin, percussion; Lois Carson, first flute; James Schofield, first horn; David Robbins, first trumpet; and Bert Nordblom, tuba.

Members of the **Junior High's Parents Club**, who arranged for a St. Patrick's Day dance at the school were Mrs. Thomas Jenkins, Mrs. Edward Campbell, Mrs. Lewis Wilson, Mrs. Guy Kline and James Martin.

Committee chairpersons for the **Brandywine-Wallace PTA's** Spring Fling were Mrs. Louis Waldmann, general chairman; Mrs. Thomas Hickey and Mrs. Roy Nellius, decorations; Mrs. John Corry, publicity; Mrs. Nancy Wilson, snack booth; and Mrs. Robert Shoemaker, posters.

Student Council officers at **Beaver Creek School** were Martha Brown, president; Annawyn Menas, vice president; Glenda Buckwalter, secretary; and Greta Asparagus, treasurer. Other council members were Larry Patrizio, Nancy Romig, Gerald Mitman, Fred Pollock, Vernon Thomas, Alex Mecray and Robert Griggs.

The Gas Island at the **Downingtown Farmers Market** was selling gasoline for 23.9 cents a gallon.

Members of **Cub Pack 2**, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club, who received various awards were David Radcliffe, Bobby Osborne, Kenneth Harman, Jack Leonard, Jack Wasmuth, Mike Norris, Stuart Pollock, Frank Bishop, Joel Swisher, Jack Howe, Steve Mascherino, Gary Burke, and Palmer Raysor.

Harry Simms won the senior high division; Janet Strawsnyder took first place in the junior high division, and East Ward's Michael McCardell earned the top honor at the Downingtown School District's third annual **Science and Industrial Arts Fair**.

The **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club's newly elected officers were Mrs. Theodore Rogers, president; Mrs. G. L. Hughes, first vice president; Dr. Anna Biddle, second vice president; Grace Gordon, recording secretary; Jeanette Stiteler, corresponding secretary; and Helen Biddle, treasurer.

A petition, requesting that buildings on lots of less than one acre be prohibited until a comprehensive survey of Uwchlan **Township** was completed, was presented to the township supervisors.

The **DHS boys' basketball team** qualified for the preliminary round of District I's Class B playoffs by beating Spring-Ford, as five Whippets hit double figures: George Murphy, 13;

Beanie Williams and Clarence Wilkerson, 11 each; and Bill Pollock and Sam Westmoreland, 10 each.

In last season's (1961) playoff, Downingtown's Charlie Newlin hit a jumper with six seconds left to beat Kennett 61-59. However, DHS was knocked out of the 1962 playoffs when it lost to Kennett, Southern Chester County League champion, by a 68-51 score.

## **Info on Marshallton's Ted Baldwin offers a ray of sunshine**

Seeking a respite from the icy, snowy weather we've experienced recently? Why don't we focus on something warm and sunny--like baseball?

Well, while doing research for this week's Hist-o-Gram issue, we came across an interesting article in the March 13, 1962 edition of the *Daily Local News*. The story was about Henry Clay (Ted) Baldwin, a Marshallton resident, who spent 15 years (1914-1929) in organized baseball, including eight years with professional teams. That career included a brief (5 hits in 16 at-bats for a .313 average) stint during the 1927 season, when he was a 33-year-old infielder for the Philadelphia Phillies. He spent the last four years of his active pro ball career with the Pacific Coast League's Seattle Indians. He hung up his spikes after he was the player-manager for most of the 1929 season with the Portland Mariners in the class B New England League.

In addition to the baseball talk, his recollections in the West Chester newspaper story also provided insights on what life was like in Chester County more than 100 years ago.

When Baldwin broke into semi-pro ball in 1909, following his sophomore year at West Chester Normal School (now West Chester University), "nobody had cars in those days. I used to hitch up the old pony and drive the 12 miles from Goshen to Chadds Ford, where we played. It wasn't an uncommon sight to see 100 buggies tied up under the trees on a Saturday afternoon," he recalled

After graduating from West Chester in 1913, he played semi-pro ball for a season and a year in the minors. Then he signed on with the semi-pro team sponsored by the Parkesburg Iron Co., which played exhibition games against major league clubs. The games against the big leaguers often attracted 2,000 fans to the borough, whose population in those days was 2,500. In addition to locals coming by horse and buggy, many fans travelled by trolleys from Philadelphia and Lancaster to get to the games.

"We were paid \$500 a month, which was top dollar in those days, and considerably more than the \$2,500 a year rookies got with the Phillies and the A's. Heck, if we didn't knock off those clubs, we were out of a job.

"I remember the afternoon we took on Detroit and Cincinnati in a doubleheader," continued Baldwin. "The Tigers beat us in the opener, but we came back to lick the Reds."

In his post-baseball days, Baldwin owned and operated a dairy farm in West Bradford, and was well known for raising fox hunting dogs and show horses, according to [www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Henry Baldwin](http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Henry_Baldwin).

He died, at age 69, on February 24, 1964.

## Downingtown's connection with a U.S. President

Ray Downing of Henderson, NV, a descendant of Thomas Downing, whom the borough was officially named after in 1859, recently sent us this message:

*While reading the short history of the Ashbridge House on the Downingtown Area Historical Society's web site, I recalled a fact that I chuckled about in the past, and thought might be of interest to Hist-O-Gram readers. Now, it's a bit far out, I agree, but it is absolutely true.*

*The first recorded owner of the Ashbridge House was John Baldwin. He and his wife, Hannah (Johnson), had a son in 1722, Joshua Baldwin. On June 7, 1744, Joshua married, Sarah Downing, second daughter of Thomas Downing, Downingtown's namesake.*

*On 16 July, 1745, Sarah died in childbirth. The daughter survived.*

*Joshua re-married, on September 17, 1747, Mercy Brown. There was one child from that marriage, Hannah Baldwin.*

*Hannah married William Milhous in 1767. There was one child of that marriage, William Milhous, Jr.*

*Now it gets a bit repetitious, but bear with me. William Jr. had a son, Joshua Vickers Milhous, and he, in turn, had a son, Franklin Milhous, who had a daughter, Hannah Milhous.*

*In 1908, Hannah Milhous married Francis Anthony Nixon, in Whittier, California. And they had a son who you may have heard of, Richard Milhous Nixon.*

*Now stop and think. If my fifth great grandniece, Sarah Downing Baldwin, had not died in childbirth in 1745.....Richard Nixon would have never existed.*

## It's at 102 Pottstown Pike (Route 100) in downtown Eagle



Josh Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building above in last week's "What and Where Is This?" photo, taken by Mike Dunn. Currently, it's the location of the Bella Salon and Spa, at 102 Pottstown Pike, at the intersection of Byers Road, in downtown Eagle. The building was constructed by William H. Sheetz around 1860. Next door was a building where Sheetz and his son operated a saddlery (harness) business.

## **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. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org). By the way, you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

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

### **Lecture series**

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will kick off a monthly lecture series on Sundays, at 3:30 PM, with a discussion at the township building on Feb. 23 about the Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School. It will be followed by a lecture on the Bondsville Mill on March 30. The third lecture, on East Brandywine Baptist, will be held at the church on April 27.

### ***Food Fight***

The Thorndale Rotary Club has challenged the Coatesville Rotary Club to a food fight. The clubs are competing to collect the most non-perishable food goods through March 1. All donations can be delivered to the West Bradford Township Building, 1385 Campus Drive, during normal business hours, 7 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

All items collected will be delivered to the Chester County Food Bank, to benefit families in need throughout our local communities.

The Cupboard's food supply runs low every March. Your generosity will help feed hundreds of hungry families during this critical time of year.

These high-priority items that are always in short supply: canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta, canned beef stew, chili and soups, canned fruits & vegetables, and cold and hot breakfast cereals. Please consider adding an extra item or two to your weekly shopping list.

### ***Book sale***

The Downingtown Library's Spring Book Sale will be held from 6-7:30 PM Friday, March 7, and from 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday, March 8. For more info, call the library at 610-269-2741.

### ***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.

### ***Downingtown Farmers' Market***

The Downingtown Farmers' Market will be open over the winter months on the following Thursdays: Feb. 20, March 6 and 20, and April 3 and 17, at the Williamson Masonic Hall; 210 Manor Ave., Downingtown, from 4 - 6 PM. 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.

### ***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](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)