



Downingtown Area Historical Society

Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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. Better yet, he or she will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant. Please send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Interesting Downingtown area news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the East Branch Citizen in January 1978.

After John Fiore was sworn in as **Downingtown's mayor**, he swore in newly-elected councilman William Whiteman and re-elected councilmen James McGowan and Frank Manetta.

Downingtown physician **Dr. Herman Kramm** retired after practicing in the borough for 36 years. As a doctor for DHS sports teams for 35 years, he recalled that he once was responsible for a 5-yard penalty during a football game, because a referee claimed he failed to get the official's permission when he went on the field to treat an injured Whippet player.

Glyn Jenkins, president of the **Downingtown Area Education Association**, which represented the district's teachers, said he was, "very happy with the package the (school board) gave to us," about the proposed, three-year contract offer, which added up to a 22.5 percent raise.

Most local residents supported a proposed ban on the **pornographic films** being shown at the Marchwood Cinema in Exton. Chester County DA William Lamb petitioned the court to prevent the theatre from continuing to show x-rated movies.

An informal survey by Rick Betres, DHS Doings columnist, showed that 24 of the 30 students interviewed had **kissed** on their first date.

A survey of the 372 DHS students who **graduated in 1972** determined that 37.5 percent of them had earned a college degree five years later, and 79 percent of the respondents still lived in the Downingtown area in 1977.

Tom Lee was elected chief of the **Downingtown Fire Department**. Elected as line officers of the Minquas Fire Co. were: Mike Davis, assistant chief; Vince Panetti, captain; Tom Gillespie, first lieutenant; Jim McHugh, second lieutenant; and Randy Hallman, third lieutenant. Line officers for the Alert Fire Co. were Richard Keers, captain; Bob Stevens, first lieutenant; Wes Pannebaker, second lieutenant; and Phil Burns, third lieutenant.

East Brandywine Fire Co. officers included Dr. Brent Follweiler, chief; Harold Thompson and Ron Rambo, assistant chiefs; and John Schmidt and Jim Baker, captains.

And line officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Richard Ruth, chief; and Robert Holmes, assistant chief.

Recent **property transfers** included: 421 Carmarthen Court, Uwchlan, \$41,990; 1353 Ridgeview Circle, West Bradford, \$60,349; 108 Cheryl Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$52,937; and 75 Chatham Court, East Brandywine, \$43,075;

The school board failed to get a majority vote to **ban smoking** by employees on school district property. However, the school directors approved a resolution to: have an unimproved room in each school, set aside for smoking staff members; inform all pupils that faculty members and staff have been asked not to smoke in school buildings and at school functions; and a concerted effort be made to inform students of the dangers of smoking.

Officers of the United Methodist Women at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Marilyn Walter, president; Traudi Stevens, vice president; Lee Bradley, secretary; and Anita Schollenberger, treasurer.

DHS students who won first place in **skills competition** at the Central Chester County Vo-Tech School were Sandy Mull, keypunching; Matthew Van Lew, architectural drafting; Lea Gayton, nurse's assistant; Tracy Grier, cake decorating; Robert Walck, appliance repairs; Rick Keeseey, small engine repairs; and William Finkbiner, heating.

The **Lionville Lions Club** donated \$400 checks to the Woman's Club of Uwchlan and the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps.

Don't throw that stuff away

You probably noticed that many of the articles we publish every week in the Hist-O-Gram are based on printed materials from the past, such as programs from schools, churches, businesses, clubs, Scout troops and teams with a Downingtown area connection.

So, whenever you come across these types of printed materials with a local connection, please don't toss them. Instead, donate them to the Historical Society. Please call us at 610-269-1709 or send us an email to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, so you can arrange to donate the materials to us.

Were Whippets booted from League competition, despite winning sportsmanship trophy again?

This is a continuation of a series of news items, which were originally published in the *Blue and Gold*, the DHS student newspaper, during the 1956-1957 school year. The copies of the *Blue and Gold* were donated by DHS grad Caroline Ash.

January 1957

Although the DHS football team won the J. Bishop and Co. Ches-Mont League Good Sportsmanship trophy for the third time in five years, it was likely that the Whippets wouldn't be eligible to compete for the Ches-Mont League championship in the fall of 1957 because the Downingtown Joint School Board refused to allow the Whippets to play in a night game at Conestoga High School. Downingtown's School Board was strongly opposed to playing night football, according to George Nixdorf, board president. And according to Ches-Mont League rules, any team that refused to play an opponent was automatically expelled from competing for the league championship in a particular sport.

The *Blue and Gold's* editors characterized the school board's position as "a punishment" because "our elders" disapprove of students driving to and from away football games at night, although it was okay to drive to and from night basketball games. **(Editor's Note: To learn how this issue was ultimately resolved, we need a copy of the *Blue and Gold* which would have been published in the fall of 1957. Can someone give us a copy?)**

Mary Jean Lillard, an alto, was selected to sing in the All-State Chorus at Washington, PA. And Beatrice Rubincam, who played the flute, and French horn player Gerald Williams were chosen to play in the District Band.

Bill Smith won two blue ribbons for his Ayrshire heifer at the State Farm Show.

Charles Emery, who had been the Downingtown School District's supervising principal (comparable to today's district superintendent) for 11 years, resigned to become director of student teachers in secondary education at West Chester State College.

February 1957

The cast of the Junior Class Play included Ronald Davis, Kay Gallatin, Ruth Carmichael, Betty D'Attilio, Marlene Thomas, Felicia Farnsworth, Philomena Massimini, Donald Gerhart, Leland Stanford, Thomas Newlin, Bette Smedley, Dave Jenney and Bruce Garvey.

Marjorie Lawn was named the Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow at DHS.

May 1957

Janet Bowman and Barry Wickersham received the Outstanding Girl and Boy awards from the DHS Alumni Association. And Susie Norris and Jim McClintock were named girl and boy Athletes of the Year.

The cast of the May Day Operetta included Gerry Deets, Dan DiFonzo, Ronald Davis, Jim Schollenberger, Felecia Farnsworth and Malcolm Styer. Proceeds from the show were to be used to buy an electric scoreboard for the football field.

It's at 1403 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore



Rahn Brackin is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to correctly identify the house above, which is located at the intersection of Route 322 and Little Washington, Springton and Culbertson Run Roads in Glenmoore. According to Mrs. William Ward, now a 97-year-old resident of Harrison House, her family lived in the house, built in 1814, for 44 years.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, Jan. 5

You don't want the holidaying to end? You can continue to have fun at our monthly clipping and pasting session, which will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, Jan. 5** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. By the way, you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.

2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation. Contact: vance_usher@netzero.com, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Savings opportunities available at DARC

Discount Movie Tickets: \$8, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website: www.darcinfo.com, or 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 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tues. 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