



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

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Where and What Are These?



The first person to correctly identify these two hunky guys and what they're doing will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Send your responses to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news published 52 years ago

Noted below are tidbits of news originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of July 1962.

More than 1,800 youngsters began participating in the **Downingtown Area Recreation** program, which was established by the Elementary School Board in 1952. Carl Garrison, Elementary Education director, had overall responsibility for the program, and Ed Novak, principal at Lionville School, was responsible for the playgrounds at Kerr Park, Lionville School, East Ward School, Beaver Creek School and Marshallton School. Eileen McCardell, Jeanne Emery, Grace Davis, Linda Hadfield, Carole Bennetch, Bonnie Plank, Nancy Kohls, Elizabeth Courtless and Ron Knickerbocker were playground supervisors.

At **Beaver Creek** playground, the wacky hat competition was won by Jane Forbes and Larry Charles. At **Marshallton**, winners of the model show were Ray Wood, Francis Wood, Cheryl Harper and Ron Williams. Roy Eshleman and Gwen Landis were chiefs of the winning teams in the corn relay at **East Ward**.

George Krapf of Glenmoore won the Chester County trapshooting championship at the West Chester Gun Club.

The **Downingtown Fire Department** beat the **Lionville Fire Co.** 1-0 in a donkey baseball game on a field near Route 100 and the PA Turnpike. There were 10 donkeys involved; one for each fielder and the pitcher, plus one for the batter.

State Police from the Thorndale Barracks were investigating the theft of \$1,400, mostly cash, from a safe at the **Whitford Post Office** on Route 30. Mrs. Mary Van Wijk, postmistress, reported the break-in and burglary.

Gleaned from late 19th Century issues of Downingtown weekly

Harry Skeen, a Downingtown printer, established a weekly newspaper in the borough in 1873. While Skeen was the editor-publisher, the paper was called the *Chester County Archive*. It carried few news articles about borough events and activities. Instead, most of the material in the paper covered news from communities all over the United States, apparently provided by a news service.

The Historical Society only has access to a few 19th Century editions of the newspaper, on microfilm, in its archival collection. Noted below are several news articles about doings in Downingtown during the late 19th Century, which we retrieved from that limited number of issues.

According to the October 5, 1889 edition, 55 candidates were to be confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Bradford Avenue, Downingtown, by Archbishop P.J. Ryan, Philadelphia Archdiocese Diocese, and 18 of those candidates were from St. Mary's Chapel in Exton.

Although this was the Victorian era in America, where privacy was treasured, another article in the October 5, 1889 edition noted that when Dr. L. T. Bremmerman lanced the abscess of John Bender, of Washington Avenue in Downingtown, "almost a pint of pus was discharged."

And the December 30, 1893 issue included a notice that there was a YMCA in the borough back then. Members of the organization, led by J. R. Hunsicker, principal of Downingtown High School, met in Bicking Hall. (*Editor's Note: We have no idea where Bicking Hall was located. We did discover, however, that was where members of Downingtown Methodist Church worshipped temporarily, while their church on Brandywine Avenue was being built in 1889.*)

Hope to see you on Good Neighbor Day

The Historical Society will be selling metal ornaments, which commemorate historic buildings in the borough, at our booth on Good Neighbor Day in Kerr Park. The ornaments being sold include: Old East Ward School, the Log House, the Downingtown Library, the 1932 Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy), West Ward School, Downingtown Borough Hall, and the original Minquas Firehouse.

See this vintage baseball uniform at our GND booth on July 4th



Mike DiLuigi recently donated this 1930s vintage baseball uniform to the Historical Society. The team was sponsored by Vince DiLuigi, owner of a shoe repair shop which was located more than 80 years ago in the Swan Hotel building on the borough's Center Square. The uniform will be on display at the Historical Society's booth on Good Neighbor Day in Kerr Park. If you have any more info on Vince DiLuigi, or his shop, please send it to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

Although this a holiday weekend, the Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, July 6. That's because many of you will need a respite from several days of noisy fireworks and smoky grills. So if you want to spend a quiet, temperature-controlled afternoon on Sunday, clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old 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 convenience.

DHS East academic team placed second in Nationals



The DHS East Academic Team placed second in the national competition, held in June at the Walt Disney World Contemporary Resort in Florida. The DHS East team was unique in the national competition because it was comprised of students from one high school, while the winning team, Florida, and the third place team, Oklahoma, were all-star teams from their respective states. The local team, shown above after winning the state championship in May in Harrisburg, included: Vis Lanka, Zack Weber, Neil Vinjamuri, Varun Girdhar, Nicholas Wu, Angela Cai and Victoria Pan. The team's co-coaches were Darryl McCauley and Alyssa Read. Paul Hurley is principal of DHS East.

It's at 930 Horseshoe Pike in East Brandywine Twp.



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as Hurry Hill Farm, at 930 Horseshoe Pike in East Brandywine. It was built in 1854. For more info on the house, see: www.zillow.com/homedetails/930-Horseshoe-Pike-Downingtown-PA-19335/87762961_zpid/.

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, 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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to send us information or make a comment, contact us at: Info@DowningtownAreaHistoricalSociety.org.

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

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

Free ads for Non-Profits

Good Neighbor Day

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Day Committee's activities benefit the following ambulance and rescue squads: Alert Fire Co., Minquas Ambulance Corps, Uwchlan Ambulance Corps, East Brandywine Fire Co., Glenmoore Fire Co. and West Bradford Fire Co. Good Neighbor Day is a day-long event that starts with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and 5K Freedom Walk at 8 AM. Approximately 1,500 athletes participate each year. Throughout the day you can enjoy fabulous food, visit 80-100 craft exhibitors or simply enjoy one of the many activities scheduled for the day. For details, see:

www.goodneighborday.com/events-schedule/. The day is capped off with a fireworks finale at dusk.

Bats for Matt

The Bats for Matt Softball Tournament will be held at Kerr Park, Downingtown, Saturday, July, 19 and Sunday, July 20. Info on teams must be submitted before July 14 to: BigCiarlone@gmail.com or Krazzielazzie224@yahoo.com. See <http://batsformatt.com/> for more details.

Chicken BBQ

The Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ dinner on Saturday, July 26. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and a beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at 610-696-5247 or via office@marshalltonchurch.org.

DHS Class of 1964 reunion

Reservations for the DHS Class of 1964's 50th reunion are due by (new deadline) July 31. The reunion will be held 6-11 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge on Saturday, Sept. 27. Cost is \$50 per person. As part of the reunion, the class plans to have a float in the Homecoming Parade on Thursday evening, Sept. 25, and attend the Homecoming Game on Friday night, Sept. 26. For more information see: <http://dhsclassof64.org/> or contact Judi (Grubb) Supplee via jsupplee@x-coretechnologies.com or call 610-220-6138.

Downingtown Library activities & events

Summer Reading Club: Stop in the library to register for our Summer Reading Club. There are clubs for kids, teens, and adults. This summer's theme is Fizz, Boom, Read!

Science in the Summer program runs from through July 3. Level 1 (children entering first and second grades) will run 1:45-2:45 PM, and Level 2 (children entering third, fourth and fifth grades) will run 3-4 PM. Registration on a first-come, first-served basis; 16 children will be accepted on each level.

For more info on activities and events, call 610-269-2741.

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 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.