



## 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 site, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

# Local news articles published 65 years ago

Chuck Hossack, former PR chief at Lukens Steel, recently gave us a bunch of copies of the *Daily Local News*, which were published during the week that West Chester borough was celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the early fall of 1949. Understandably, those editions were packed with stories about West Chester's history. However, we also found these news articles about the Downingtown area, as well.

- Edward Dunmore, Yerkes Peoples, John Moyer, Albert Faneski and Walter Touchton each were awarded a pair of chickens because they were winners in the **Downingtown Sportsmen Club's** "splash board" competition at the traps of the Downingtown VFW Post.
- The **Downingtown Fire Department** reported that trial tests of the new two-way radio system were successful. And the Alert Fire Co. planned to use the \$1,885 raised at the recent community fair to build a garage at the rear of the firehouse on West Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Halfback Paul Talierco returned the second half kickoff for an 80-yard TD as the **DHS football team** beat Upper Merion 27-13. Other Whippet touchdowns were scored by Jack Helm and Bill Davis.
- Installed as new officers of the **Downingtown American Legion Post** were George Davidson, commander; Mark Bareford, first vice commander; Walter Crandall, second vice commander; Harlan Clavier, finance officer; Francis Summers, adjutant; Rev. David Stewart, chaplain; Ralph Howard, service officer; Paul Dague, historian; and Jonathan Windle, sergeant-at-arms.
- The **West Pikeland School Board** decided to ask township voters to approve floating a \$49,000 bond issue, which would be the township's share in financing the construction of a \$300,000 addition to the Downingtown Junior-Senior High School.

## News stories about the Downingtown area in January 1947

Noted below are news articles which were published in local newspapers 67 years ago.

Installed as officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Russell Allison, president; Morris Griffith, vice president; Harvey Happersett, secretary; Ira Smedley, treasurer; Harry Ruth, chief; Elmer Kochel, assistant chief; and Sherman Kirkpatrick, trustee.

In its quest for a third consecutive county championship, the **Downingtown Junior High basketball team** beat West Chester Junior High 29-19. The Hayes brothers, Pete and Bill, scored 20 of Downingtown's points. And Pete Hayes tossed in 14 points, as Coach Don White's squad defeated Coatesville Junior High 28-22. However, the DHS varsity lost to St. Agnes High School, West Chester, 35-32, despite Dan Barrow's 15 points for the Whippets.

Newly elected officers of the **Marshallton Grange** were Gilbert Gray, master; Kenneth Jefferis, overseer; Jane Conners, lecturer; Lawrence Barker, steward; Robert Hayman, assistant steward; Esther Hill, treasurer; Mary Gibson, chaplain; Alice Shoemaker, secretary; and William Baldwin, gatekeeper.

Officers elected to lead the **Brandywine Building and Loan Association**, Downingtown, included Arthur Glauner, president; S.F. McDonald, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; Richard Warren, treasurer; and Theodore Griffith, solicitor.

Officers chosen to lead the Sunday School of **St. Paul's Reformed Church**, Lionville, were Everett Wilson, president; Bayard Samworth, vice president; Emmett Gordon, treasurer; Mrs. Harmon Rogers, secretary; and Mrs. James Messner, pianist.

Installed as officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were Edwin Smedley, master; Harold Pyle, overseer; Sara Pyle, lecturer; Mrs. F.W. Moore, chaplain; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Annie Smedley, gatekeeper.

Members of the Washington Camp, **Patriotic Sons of America of Eagle**, elected these officers: Robert Simpson, president; Harold Jones, vice president; Clyde Harner, master of forms; Walter McCardell, recording secretary; Herman Arters, financial secretary; Walter Garvine, treasurer; Raymond Garvine, conductor; Joseph Taylor, inspector; Alan Dewees, guard; and John Garvine, trustee.

Elected as officers of the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** were Leroy McConnell, president; Frank Miller, vice president; Ernest Philips, treasurer; Larue Williams, secretary; and Wilmer Ferrell, Walter Ford and Clarence Miller, trustees.

Newly installed officers of the **Lyndell Grange** included Edward Towson, master; John McCausland, overseer; Ruth Jackson, lecturer; John Frazer, steward; Morris Jackson, assistant steward; Ruth Moore, chaplain; Warren Marshall, treasurer; Julia Peck, secretary; and James McQuail, gatekeeper.

## **Becky Desmond, Downingtown art teacher and tennis coach, retires**



Becky Desmond, teacher in Downingtown schools for 52 years (a School District record), and high school tennis coach for 40 years, has retired. She's shown in the photo above at her retirement dinner, with the sign which will be installed at the newly dedicated Becky Desmond

Tennis Courts at DHS West. Among her accomplishments as an art teacher she: helped start the Living Arts program 40 years ago, established a chapter of the National Art Honor Society, perpetuated the 106-year-old Senior Mantle tradition for several decades, and, as DHS Teacher of the Year in 1985-86, accepted the high school's first national Excellence in Education Award at the White House. As tennis coach of the DHS girls' and boys' tennis teams which won 15 Ches-Mont League titles, she was named National Coach of the Year by the U.S. Professional Tennis Registry, was the first inductee to the Hall of Fame of the Middle States Div. of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association, was chosen by the U.S. Tennis Association to co-author a book on coaching high school tennis, and received the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Educational Merit Award in 1998.

## **Find out if you're related to Downingtown's founders**

Bob Downing of the Houston area recently informed us that you can find more than 5,500 names of people who are related to the family that founded Downingtown, at this website: <http://rdown3657.tribalpages.com/>. The Downings of Downingtown PA – Family Tree site also includes 387 photos of individuals and gravesites. Ray Downing developed the site and continues to be the webmaster.

## **It's at 217 Whiteland Avenue in Downingtown**



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as the one located at 217 Whiteland Avenue in Downingtown.

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

### ***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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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**

### ***Downingtown Library activities & events***

Spring Garden Tour, noon to 4 PM Sunday, June 22. Tickets--\$20 in advance, \$23 day of the tour--available for purchase at the library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Enjoy a beautiful day touring unique gardens in the Downingtown area. The tour is sponsored by the Friends of the Downingtown Library. All proceeds benefit the library.

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 June 30 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.

### ***St. Joe's Community Festival***

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is sponsoring a Community Festival on the church grounds on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The festival will be held 6-10 PM Thursday, June 19, and 6-11 PM on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21. The attractions include rides for children and adults, live bands, games and food. For discounted ride deals, access <http://stjoesfestival.com> or the church's Facebook page.

Also, there will be fireworks Friday night, June 20.

### ***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 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).