



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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. 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@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

DHS Hall of Fame inductees selected

Five Downingtown High School graduates have been selected to be the first inductees into the Hall of Fame, which was recently established by the Downingtown Area School District and the Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association.

Those who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Alumni Association's annual banquet at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown, on Saturday evening, April 26, are:

- Todd Stong, Class of 1958, achievement in Humanitarian Service, Military;
- Curt Schroder, Class of 1979, achievement in Politics, Government;
- James (Hank) Hamilton, Class of 1968, achievement in Business, Community Service;
- Bonnie MacDougal Kistler, Class of 1971, achievement in Law, Literature;
- Richard Whittaker, Class of 1958, achievement in Medicine, Humanitarian Service.

Nominees were required to have graduated from either DHS East or DHS West, prior to 2004, and have accomplished success in the arts, education, politics, the military, science, engineering, athletics, entertainment, business, professional affiliations or charitable involvement. Additional information on the inductees will be published in future Hist-o-Grams.

Members of the selection committee, which considered 21 nominations, were: Chairperson Melissa Menna, Donna Kneisly, Kate Campbell, Jack Helm, Paul Hurley, Thomas Mulvey, Corey Sigle and Mark Kenworthy.

More information about the banquet can be provided by calling Caryn Menna at (610) 883-3917, and tickets can be purchased via www.downingtowndalumni.org/banquet.html.

Established in 1884, the Downingtown Alumni Association is the oldest, continuously meeting, public high school alumni association in the United States.

Interesting Downingtown area news 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of March 1978.

Florence Ford was retiring, after serving more than 40 years as postmistress of the **Uwchland Post Office**, which was established in 1825. In the early years, the Post Office was located in the Eagle Hotel (later the Eagle Tavern), the Eagle General Store (later Simpson's), and Lumis's General Store in Byers. And when Ford was appointed, during President Franklin Roosevelt's second term, she set up the Post Office in her father's garage. Also, mail volume grew from an average of 100 pieces a day in 1937 (when a first class stamp cost only three cents) to about 1,000 a day in 1978.

The cast of students who were presenting the musical "**Damn Yankees**" at DHS included Valerie Jean Hadfield, Curt Schroder, Chris Dagher, Jody Cura, Karen Heckman, Lauri Kaulkins, Cindy Griggs, Bud Zinni and Matt Ladd. It was directed by William Cain and Timothy Lutz.

Members of **Cub Pack 23's** Pinewood Derby were Michael May, first; Brian Gomez, second; and Barry Gomez, third. And at the pack's Blue and Gold banquet at Central Presbyterian Church one-year service pins were presented to Tommy Wood, Glenn Dunlap, Jeff Morrison, Darren Ulmer and Clay Stehman.

DHS lost its first-ever District I AAA playoff game when the **boys' basketball team** was edged by Central Bucks West in a 49-48 heartbreaker. Bob Dorsey, whose season average was 20.2 per game, was the top Whippet scorer, with 22 points. His career scoring mark was 880

points, placing him in third place, behind Doug Gindin (1,312) and Tom Benton (1,210) among DHS players at the time.

Mark Dague sank 23 of 25 shots and won the 10th annual **foul shooting contest**, sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board.

Recent **property transfers** were: 415 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$36,000; 5 West Merion Circle, East Brandywine, \$64,100; 200 Fairview Road, Wallace, \$45,000; 1405 Manorwood Drive, West Bradford, \$50,700; 160 Whitford Hills Road, East Caln, \$84,500; 106 Taylors Mill Road, Uwchlan, \$63,626; 148 Ascot Court, Caln, \$35,290; and 10 Surrey Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$64,000.

Harold Hannum, chairman of the **Wallace Township Recreation Board**, announced that Jan Lewis had been elected as board secretary and Marilyn Mason as vice chairman. And Harold Miller was appointed to the board.

Supervisor Andrew McCreight said **West Pikeland's** supervisors were "perfectly content" with the former schoolhouse on Route 113 as the township headquarters. And the building would only be sold if it continued to be the township's headquarters "in perpetuity." The supervisors were considering selling the building because the township was spending \$3,000 annually to maintain the building and grounds.

New members of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Berdell, Mrs. Noretta Beuhner, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Frazer, Angela Gennell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mrynkow, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Klose, Mr. and Mrs. Owen McIntyre, Mr. and Mrs. John Ratyna, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schuler.

Rob Sanders, a Lionville Junior High ninth grader who was a member of the DHS indoor track team, placed second in a novice meet at West Chester State College, which attracted competitors from over 100 schools.

Those elected to lead the **Philathea Society**, the international Masonic scholarship and research organization, included William Albert Burkhardt, president, and Robert Bair, treasurer, both of Downingtown.

Officers of the recently formed **Downingtown Republican Club** were Bob Bowker, president; Bill Whiteman, vice president; Nancy Mason, secretary; John Roberts, treasurer; Jonathan Stott, membership chairman; and Harry Crossan, PR chairman.

Members of **Windsor Baptist Church** who attended a retreat in the Poconos were Carole Styer, David Supplee, Mark Shaw and Stan Miller. Also, John Meissner and Edward Pyle were ordained as deacons.

The **Chester County Toastmasters** group gave awards to two local people. Bobbi Talbert of Uwchlan was presented a trophy for her participation in a table topics forum, and Dudley Christy of West Bradford received the "Best Evaluator" award.

And although many residents of the HillCrest development in **West Bradford** wanted the township to pave Stouff's Road, Jean Eckbold, a longtime property owner on Broad Run Road, declared, "I like my road the way it is. Please don't pave it."

New trustees at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Robert Moyer, Thomas Bradley and Francis Swisher. And new members of the congregation were Dorothy Wiest, Janet Brookover and Leslie Henry.

Historian seeks info on Col. Horace Shelmire

We have been contacted by a military historian who's looking for information on Col. Horace Shelmire and his involvement with the 303rd Air Service Group on the island of Saipan during World War II.

According to our July 18, 2013 Hist-O-Gram, Shelmire Road, in Uwchlan Township, was named after Col. Shelmire, who bought a large property, then known as Old Forge Farm, on that road in 1931.

Since Shelmire (1886-1965) had served in the military during World War I and was in his mid-50s when WW II started, he was turned down when he volunteered to join the Army again, according to an article in *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper.

That rejection stung Shelmire because at least one member of his family had fought in every war the United States had been involved in. In fact, his great-grandfather, Capt. John Shelmire, was an aide to Gen. Washington at the Battle of the Brandywine.

However, Shelmire's disappointment didn't last long, because Gen. "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Force and Shelmire's classmate at Lower Merion High School, asked him to come to Washington to be his chief aide.

But Shelmire didn't spend much time in Washington as a Pentagon desk jockey. Instead, after earning his wings, his assignments included North Africa and 18 months as commander of a B-29 Group on the island of Saipan, where he was responsible for building an air field.

Ironically, Shelmire closely resembled Lt. Col. Nicholson, portrayed by Alec Guinness in the Oscar-winning 1957 film *Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Also, as a commander on Saipan, Shelmire earned a Legion of Merit medal for his personal involvement in the disposal of dangerous dud bombs.

During the 1950s, he was head of the Civil Defense efforts in Chester County.

If you have *any* info on Col. Shelmire, please call us at 610-269-1709, or contact us via email at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Great Tuscan food in a historic setting at the Orangery at Glen Isle

Here's another restaurant write-up by Karen and Ron Meacham, who won the grand prize—dinners at 12 Downingtown area restaurants—in the "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle, conducted by the Historical Society this past fall.

A snowy Valentine's Day was the perfect time to dine at The Orangery at Glen Isle, a lovely, upscale, yet unpretentious restaurant located off South Lloyd Avenue in Downingtown. Owners Paul and Sabrina Lutz combined their passions for historic architecture and simple Tuscan cooking into a beautifully renovated dining facility. The house sits on an Isle between two streams that split the property. It is the site of the original Ship Inn, and during the American Revolution, the inn's owner, a British loyalist, found patriot soldiers in his establishment and promptly removed them. The soldiers, in turn, put several musket balls into his tavern sign. In later years, business declined, and the inn was moved to its present location in Exton. The house, known for many years as Glen Isle, remained a private residence until recently.

Our evening began with an appetizer of cauliflower cakes, followed by a fresh pear and spinach salad. Next came delicious, homemade Tuscan lasagna and then tender chicken scaloppini in mushroom sauce with roasted potatoes. Dessert was selected by Sabrina and topped off with a special Valentine package of chocolate truffles. All courses were nicely

proportioned and served on charming, mismatched, antique china. Service was efficient, yet non-intrusive. Owner Paul mingled with the guests appropriately throughout the evening.

The Orangery is a reservations-only BYOB, with one seating at 6:30 PM, Thursdays through Saturdays. You will enjoy a five-course, set menu of delectable Tuscan recipes prepared by Chef Sabrina, using the freshest ingredients. Menus are published on their website at www.orangeryatglenisle.com. Menus are changed every two weeks, so guests can always be sure of getting something new and scrumptious.

We want to thank The Orangery at Glen Isle for their gracious contribution to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's "A Taste of Chester County" fundraiser.

It's at 1748 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as being located at 1748 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322), Glenmoore. There's more info about the house at: www.trulia.com/property/3141837322-1748-Horse-Shoe-Pike-Glenmoore-PA-19343.

Jack Hines loved Kahler's cherry ice cream sodas

We noted in our Feb. 27 Hist-O-Gram that Kahler's Pharmacy in Marshallton offered many veterinary items to local farmers in the 1940s. However, Jack Hines, retired township manager in West Bradford, provided some recollections about the drug store:

The drug store was located in a building that is now an apartment house, the second building on the left, going west on Strasburg Road, after the intersection with Northbrook Road. It backs up to the Martin Tavern historic site. The drug store closed in the 50's and became a sandwich shop, before it became apartments.

"They had the best cherry ice cream soda, which I think cost 25 cents. I can remember Mr. Kahler giving out all the ice cream one time, when his freezer failed. He said it was easier than letting it all melt." And when the drug store closed, Jack's neighbor in Marshallton, who had worked at Kahler's soda fountain, purchased the milk shake machine, and later gave it to Jack who still uses it to make shakes at home.

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.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.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@downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org.

By the way, you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Paid ads for businesses

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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

Book Sale & Library Programs

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. Book donations still being accepted until the sale begins.

Holistic Weight Loss: 6:30 PM Monday, March 10--Learn healthy ways to make lifestyle changes to help keep weight off.

Meditation for Creativity: 6:30 PM Monday, April 28--Program focuses on drawing inspiration from meditation.

For more info on any of these activities, call the library at 610-269-2741.

Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner

The Marshallton United Methodist Church will host a Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner on Saturday, March 22. Seating is continuous from 4:30 until 6 PM. Menu includes Chicken Cordon Bleu, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, apple sauce, rolls, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (aged 5 to 12 years). Eat-In or Take-Out. The church is located at 1282 West Strasburg Road, West Chester, PA. Contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247) or via office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Lecture series

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the Bondsville Mill at 3:30 PM Sunday, March 30 at the township building on Route 322, Guthriesville. The third lecture, on East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 27.

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.

Downingtown Farmers' Market

The Downingtown Farmers' Market will be open over the winter months on the following Thursdays: 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 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