



## 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).

## More local news originally published 52 years ago

The following news items noted below were originally published by local newspapers in the latter part of June 1962:

Tom Brookshier, defensive back for the Philadelphia Eagles, was flown, via the WCAU-TV helicopter, to make an appearance at the **Downingtown Farmers' Market**.

Since there was significant growth projected in **West Bradford Township**, the Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board decided to investigate the possibility of buying land so it might build an addition to the Marshallton School.

Captains Walter Peazzonni of the Alert Fire Co. and William Wilmot of the Minquas Fire Co. were named publicity directors for the **Downingtown Fire Department**. Other members of the publicity committee were Chief Hallan Usher, Assistant Chiefs Al Peterman and Dan Zittle, and Lieutenants Charles Broomell and Arthur Phillips.

More than 300 people turned out for the dedication of **Caln Township's** new municipal building, which cost \$38,000 to build.

Mrs. Kenneth Scott, a second grade teacher at **East Ward School**, was slated to begin training to be a member of the Peace Corps in the African nation of the Ivory Coast.

Brownies Linda Slater, Selma Ortlip, Marta Kelsey and Ann Roeder were received into **Girl Scout Troop 166** at a fly-up ceremony at Fairview Presbyterian Church, Glenmoore. And Brownies who flew up into Troop 314, Glenmoore, included Carol Ann Burkey, Robin deRussy, Marjorie Munson, Ruth Ann Givler, Patty Pease and Lois Slater.

Ben Valocchi was installed as president of the **Downingtown Lions Club**. Other new officers were Warren Strawsnyder, first vice president; Charles Beamsderfer, second vice president; Thomas Courtlessa, third vice president; Joseph Mento, secretary; William Woodruff, treasurer; Don Jones, tail twister; Ray Jones, assistant tail twister; Thomas Roberts, lion tamer; Philip Manno, assistant lion tamer; and directors Horace Rodgers, Maurie Davis, Wilbert Smith, and Bradford Ferguson.

Some of the attractions at the **West Bradford Firemen's Fair** were tug-of-war competitions between area fire companies, music by Warren Mercer and his Royal Ramblers and the Lukens Band, and fireworks on the last night. Members of the **Lionville Fire Co.** team, which won the tug-of-war competition, were George Ruark, John Trego, William Isinger, Sonny Trego, Charles Young, Lewis Dewees, Walter Trego, Francis Hill, Robert Suloff, Robert Ruark, James Pinkerton, Fred Schlimme and Harold Trego.

Some 600 employees and guests of the **Downingtown Iron Works** attended the 14<sup>th</sup> annual picnic, held at Rocky Springs Park, near Lancaster. The contest winners included: peanut scramble: Renee Emondi, Donna Russell, Jeff Moore and Tyna Farina; balloon push race: Louise Selter, Betty Unruh, Kenny Sigle and Barry Piersol; ping pong ball hitting: Kathy Lamb, Barbara Gay, Mike Pollock and Rich DiEugenio; golf ball hitting: W.I. Pollock and Bob Piersol; egg tossing: Mrs. Paul Givler, Peggy Givler, Charles Hepner and Les Sheeler.

**Lionville's Community Vacation Bible School** teachers and helpers included Mrs. Clair Koser, Linda Davis, Mrs. Donald Willoughby, Mrs. Charles Williman, Mrs. John Hensler, Mrs. Donald Klaebel, Mrs. Elroy Buttermann, Mrs. Roy Gulliford, Mrs. Norman Davis, Dolly Buttermann, Mrs. Richard Taylor, Nancy Martin, Mrs. Donald Corneal and Mrs. James Young.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 252's** Chipmunk Patrol, who earned a second class badge, were Kate Hallman, Mary Ann Leinweber, Ann Wachsmuth, Nancy Sload, Cynthia Myers and Cynthia van Buren.

Brownies from Troop 210, who flew up to the **Girl Scout Troop in Marshallton**, included Mollie Anderson, Joan Keeler, Patty McLearn, Gwen Swarner, Sheryl Warner and Virginia Young.

## Masons Honor Downingtown's First Responders



The Williamson Masonic Lodge of Downingtown honored Downingtown's First Responders last week, and presented a check to each of the following units: the Alert Fire Co., the Minquas Fire Co., the Minquas EMS and the Downingtown Police Department.

## Names of local Spanish American War volunteers found

In last week's Hist-O-Gram, we mentioned that 10 unnamed Downingtown area veterans of the Spanish American War attended a special service at Downingtown Methodist Church in 1932.

Since many of you don't recall much about that war, here are some basics facts, according to the Smithsonian's American History Museum's website:

"America went to war against Spain to free Cuba from Spanish domination. But the war provided the United States an opportunity to seize overseas possessions and begin building an American empire. After ousting Spain from Cuba, the United States seized Puerto Rico. And subsequently it annexed the Philippines, Samoa, Guam and Wake Island, followed by Hawaii."

Although it really was only a 10-week war in 1898, it officially lasted from 1898 to 1902. There were 306,760 U.S. servicemen involved, and 2,446 of them died in combat.

Noted below is a list of 20 Downingtown area vets who served during that war, according to the *Record of Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Spanish American War*, published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1901. Most of the local volunteers were members of the Sixth Regiment, which was mustered into service in May 1898. The regiment was primarily comprised of men who were living in southeastern Pennsylvania when they signed up. The unit was mustered out of service in September 1898, and was not involved in combat.

The volunteers from the Downingtown area were: George W. Berkenheiser, Liberty Browne, Horace S. Carpenter, Preston H. Darlington, George Donley, James W. Dorat, Charles E. Dripps, Harvey E. Good, William H. Graham, John E. Hamilton, Wilson S. Hamilton, William L. Lammy, Charles L. Lightcap, Ernest S. Looriger, Leon D. Lyster, John F. Martin, Alexander H. McCausland, William McConnell, John McFarland and James C. Roberts.

## Who wrote the words to the DHS West alma mater?

We received a call from DHS West, requesting information on who wrote the words of the DHS alma mater. Frankly, we don't know when that alma mater was established at DHS, and that's why we're seeking your help.

An alma mater is an educational institution's official song. The term means bountiful mother in Latin. However, we suspect that many DHS students don't know all the words to their alma mater, because, like the Latin language, alma maters have lost some of their luster over the years.

Doug Bennett, former DHS West band director, tells us about the high school alma mater, "The tune is actually the Russian National anthem. I would think its origin would be a Russia folk tune or nationalistic song prior to becoming the Russian anthem. This tune can also be found woven into the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. It's also the same tune for WCU (West Chester State University) and probably countless other schools."

If you have information on the person who wrote the lyrics to the DHS alma mater or related info, please send to us at: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## It's at 1234 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville



Donna Kneisly is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above (taken by Mike Dunn) as the house at 1234 Horseshoe Pike, across from Stauffer's Supermarket in Guthriesville in East Brandywine Township. Donna said she immediately recognized it because her Uncle Joe Filoromo's family once lived there.

## **Clip Joint will be open Sunday, June 1**

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, June 1** 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 convenience

## **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, Dick Lehr, Mike Dunn 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:

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

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo 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).

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