



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 5, No. 19

May 8, 2014

## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building shown above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## When Krista Lang was wounded by a sniper 36 years ago

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

Newspapers across the nation reported that Krista Lang of Downingtown was wounded in both legs when 15-year-old George Hodge randomly fired a rifle in the Manayunk area of Philadelphia at the school bus she was riding in on the Schuylkill Expressway. Krista and 49 other seventh grade classmates from Downingtown Junior High were returning home, after going on a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Teacher-chaperones Jim Eisenhardt and Len Fredericks applied tourniquets to help stop the bleeding from Krista's wounded legs, while the bus immediately changed its route and drove to Paoli Memorial Hospital.

Several days after she underwent surgery at the hospital, Krista expressed disappointment about not being able to play the drums with the Junior High band on an upcoming trip to Hershey or in Downingtown's Memorial Day parade. But she was confident that she would soon be able to continue playing for the Maxwell Hardware team in the Downingtown Girls' Softball League.

Other students who suffered minor injuries, caused by flying debris from the ricocheting bullet, were: Glenvar Harman, Sally McClure, Andrew Mento, Penny Bones, Patricia McCallin, Richard Kefer and Michele Boice.

Today, Dr. Krista Lang Schonrock and her family live in Salt lake City, UT, where she is a physician.

### Other local news

Newly elected officers of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** were Mrs. Lacy Lackey, president; Mrs. Richard Newman, first vice president; Mrs. Walter Hurst, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Fegley, secretary; Mrs. William Isinger, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Elmer Matthews, treasurer.

**Joy Branyan**, a DHS student, was practicing more than 15 hours a week to reach the finals of the Eastern Regional Junior Roller Skating Championships.

Another DHS junior, **Kathleen Fiedler**, qualified for the state Governor's School for the Arts. She competed in the creative writing field.

Recent **property transfers** included: 13 Cambridge Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$61,900; 560 Reeds Road, East Brandywine, \$120,000; 300 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$60,750; 90 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$65,000; 234 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$41,000; 3 Hunt Drive, West Bradford, \$68,000.

**West Bradford** supervisors voted to create the position of township manager, and administrative assistant Jack Hines was appointed to the new position.

Three busloads of fourth graders from Uwchlan **Hills School** spent a day on a class trip to New York City. Money to pay for trip was earned by selling poinsettias and 1,300 hoagies.

First place winners at a Science Fair at **St. Joseph's Catholic School** were: Kevin Conahan, intermediate grades; Matt Nelson, primary grades; and John Cristoff, junior high grades.

And **industrial arts students**, who were first place winners at the DHS Living Arts Weekend, were: John Lambert, graphic arts; Bill Yenser, offset printing; Ron Parker, silk screening; Roger Pitkin, sheet and art metal; Sabrina Vourvoulias, photography, one-artist show; Kathy Carson, portrait photography; Scott Loomis, general screening; Matt Montgomery, machine metalwork; Mike Talucci, foundry; Keith Grant, welding; Jeff Henry, drafting sketches; Charles Espenlaub, drafting of a crutch carrier; Rich Altringer, residential architecture; Steve Waldron, architecture design; Robert Craig, Electronics I; and Scott Donovan, Electronics II.

Holly DeCovny, 2-D emphasis, and Patty Davis, 3-D emphasis, were the one-person show winners at the **DHS Living Arts Weekend**.

Lauri Carcella pitched a no-hitter and she scored the Whippets only run, as the **DHS girls' softball team** beat Coatesville 1-0. The win enabled Downingtown to stay in a first place tie with Boyertown in the Ches-Mont League.

## **Downingtown Lions ran a soup kitchen in Depression years**

A short time after the Downingtown Lions Club was organized in 1928, the organization took on one of its most important projects. That was during the Depression era, when an estimated free 12,000 meals were served to unemployed families at the Lions Food Center before 1932. The food center was operated out of a building, which was located where DNBFirst's main office parking lot now is located on Brandywine Avenue.

Staples such as potatoes and flour were donated by the government, and additional donations were made to the food center by the Red Cross and local groups. Evans "Doc" Miller, a retired machinist, worked at the center without pay, and Harry Berry cooked soup for the center every day at the Swan Hotel (across the street), recalled Dr. George Bousum, in an interview published in the May 11, 1978 edition of the *East Branch Citizen*.

Bousum, a Downingtown dentist, was interviewed at that time because he was the sole surviving charter member of the Downingtown Lions Club, which was celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1978.

"All we asked of people who came to the center was that they give a day's work at 'the thicket'," explained Bousum. The thicket was an area on Pennsylvania Avenue, which was a swampy cow pasture with tall weeds and a small woods entangled with vines, according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*. Today that area, with much effort, has evolved into Kerr Park.

Bousum also noted that the local Lions had their meetings over the years at the Downingtown Woman's Club, Bell Tavern, Messiah Lutheran and Central Presbyterian Churches, the Downingtown VFW, St. Anthony's Lodge and 10 Downing Street.

Besides Bousum, the club's 21 charter members were Dr. John Ammerell, Lewis Barker, Everett Hoopes, Fred Howe, Corb Hutchison, William Johnson, George Kilberry, John Leaman, Henry Lillard, William Ludwig, Joseph Miller, Robert Pannebaker, Charles Phillips, Philip Swank, Ernest Thomas and Arthur Walton.

## **Remember these West Lancaster Ave. businesses?**

We were looking through the September 6, 1952 edition of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church parish calendar, donated to the Historical Society by Donna Capriotti, and found advertisements for these businesses in the west end of Downingtown which are no longer around:

- Katherine's Kiddies Korner, children's clothing, 212 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Downingtown Music Center, latest records and phonograph players, 137 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Theodore Pease, appliance repairs, 145 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Dailey's, paints, wallpapers, sanders for rent, 201 W. Lancaster Ave.
- Teeny Weeny Towne, children's apparel, 121 W. Lancaster Ave.

The calendar also noted that James Mascherino was president and Richard Valentino was treasurer of the Altar Boy Society.

## Cub Pack 2's Tigers visited Historical Society

A dozen Tiger Cub Scouts from Pack 2, sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, and their parents visited Ashbridge House last week in order to meet their badge requirements. The boys particularly enjoyed touring our headquarters, seeing the old well inside the summer kitchen, and looking through our copies (some are 100 years old) of *American Boy* magazine, precursor of *Boys Life* magazine, published by the Boy Scouts of America. Other Scout groups who want visit our headquarters should contact us at:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

## It was at Viaduct and W. Lancaster Avenues in Downingtown



Joe Bird is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above (provided by the Alert Fire Co.) as John Nolan's feed mill at Viaduct and West Lancaster Avenues in the borough. Downingtown Fire Department old timers aren't exactly sure when this fire occurred, but they suspect it was between 1947 and 1951. The lot at 100 W. Lancaster Ave., was to be the site of the First Baptist Church, which ultimately was built at the northwest corner of Manor and Lancaster Avenues. Then Vinton Philips bought the lot and established the Viaduct Roller Flour Mill there in 1889. In recent years, the building has been occupied by Bob Wagner's Mill Carpet, WeatherMaster Windows and CarQuest Auto Parts.

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## **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).

*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.*

**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).**

## **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](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

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

### ***'Search for the Blob' bike ride***

The Downingtown Main Street Association everyone to participate in a family-friendly, 9.3-mile bike ride through the Downingtown Area. Participants will meet at 8 AM on Saturday, May 10 at the parking lot of Victory Brewpub, 420 Acorn Lane, Downingtown. Following the ride, and even for those who don't ride,

there will be a brunch and a showing of the film classic, *The Blob*, beginning at 10 AM. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for kids under 14. For more info, see <http://mrdowntowntown.blogspot.com/>

### ***Farmers Market changes***

The Downingtown Farmers Market is now held in Kerr Park, by the gazebo on Pennsylvania Avenue, on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM,

### ***Flower Sale***

Marshalltown United Methodist Church's Men's Flower Sale will begin Friday, May 9 and will continue through Wednesday, May 28. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

### ***East Brandywine Baptist's history***

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture on the history of East Brandywine Baptist Church, will be held at the church at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 18.

### ***Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts***

Table space is available for a Flea Market/Antiques/Crafts sale to be held from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 10 on the grounds of the Old Caln Meetinghouse at Route 340 and Caln Meetinghouse Rd., Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. For more info, please call 610-384-8153.

### ***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).