



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 Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in early September 1962.

Although a few residential areas of West Whiteland had been receiving **home delivery of mail** via motor routes, all of the Exton area began to receive mail at home after a house numbering system was established throughout the township. "We used Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia plan, with even numbers on the south and west sides of a street, and odd numbers on the north and east sides," explained township supervisor Harold Martin. Also, the Whitford Post Office was to be closed.

A total of 617 students were attending schools in the **Pickering-Brandywine School District**, comprised of the Brandywine-Wallace, Chester Springs and Upper Uwchlan Elementary Schools. The total included more than 100 kids enrolled in the district's first kindergarten class. And about 400 books were donated by members of the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League** for the school district's libraries.

Officers elected to lead the Indiantown School and Wallace High School reunion association were Jack Beard, president; Charles Earnshaw, vice president; Mrs. Florence Irey, secretary; and Mrs. Bess Foreman Smedley, treasurer.

Donald Greenleaf was named assistant borough manager in Downingtown. He had been active in the borough government since 1953.

Appointed as committee chairmen by Mrs. Frank Gottier, president of the **Pickering Valley Woman's Club**, were Mrs. Richard Wheatley, sunshine; Mrs. Samuel Acker, and Mrs. Jacob Dewees, cake; Mrs. Wilbur McQueen, program; Mrs. Raymond Briggs, Mrs. Alton Reed and Mrs. Norman Frank, telephone; Mrs. Paul Gottier, welfare; and Mrs. Forrest Gottier, publicity.

Members of the **Village League of the Uwchlans**, who were models in the organization's fashion show at the Lionville Elementary School, were Mrs. William Bolig, Mrs. Lloyd Geare, Mrs. Francis Hill, Mrs. William Meredith, Mrs. Walter Mitchell, Mrs. Garfield Smith and Mrs. George Smith.

The 11 members of **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, who attended a retreat at Bucknell University were Bob Arters, Howard and William Beale, Edward and Christian Crane, Bill Broomell, Charles Mull, Clem Regener, Bud Koth, Bob Mertz and John Madiro.

Members of **Cub Pack 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, were challenged by their mothers to play a softball game. The game, played at the Guthriesville School playground, ended in a 7-7 tie. Cubs who played were Joe Seeds, Frank Watters, Ed Fryberger, Bruce Welsh, Jeff and Mike Shaw, Irv Nailor, Brian Boothroyd, Ray Burkey, Don Campbell, Chuck Haas and Dennie Shore. The mothers' team was comprised of Jean Welsh, Nellie Burkey, Dot Seeds, Toddy Haas, Shorty Burkey, Mary Boothroyd, Zilla Shaw and Fran Nailor.

Elected as officers of the Philathea Class at **St. Paul's Evangelical Reformed Church** in Lionville were: Mrs. Dorothy Rennard, president; Mrs. Norman Jenkins, vice president; Mrs. Emmett Gordon, secretary; and Mrs. Frances Shaeffer, treasurer.

Highlights from 1959 issues of the *Blue and Gold*

Ron Tipton, DHS Class of 1959, who was in Downingtown for a class reunion last weekend, brought a bunch of neat stuff from his high school days to Ashbridge House. Among them were several copies of the student newspaper we didn't have in our archival collection.

Highlights from the issues of the *Blue and Gold* Tipton donated included:

- Students who sang solos in the Christmas program, put on by the Junior and Senior High Music Department, were Julia Asparagus, Ann Gault, Mary Ellen Crosby, Eleanor Robinson and Nancy Jefferis. Accompanists were Margaret Harrison, Linda Poole, Helen Simmons, Helen Burkhart, Evelyn Eshleman and Joan White.
- Winning participants in the bowling competition were Pam Renz, Paula Tweed, Nancy Gindin, Donna Thompson, Bonnie Walton, Marty Johnson, Susan Whittaker, Bonnie Dawson and Carol Shisler.
- Juniors who were in the cast in the student production of "Harvey" were: Dallett Norris, Barbara Wagner, Joan Kent, Eileen Mercer, Connie Gara, Dave Henderson, Dave DiLuigi, Nan Kohls, Mike Echols and Don Miles.
- Members of the *Blue and Gold* staff, who went to the annual high school press conference at Columbia University in New York City, were Jeanne Emery, Joan Kent, Pat Mitchell, Barbara Dinn, Sonia Raysor, Polly Weber, Mike Echols and Dallett Norris.

- John (Bucky) Rogers, a sophomore, won the Downingtown Optimist Club's oratorical contest. Other DHS competitors were Lewis Wilson and Joseph West.
- Steve Pope was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.
- Buddy White and Joe Arasim were named the Whippet gridders' outstanding back and lineman, respectively, at the dinner given at St. Anthony's Lodge. DHS was co-champion of the Ches-Mont League.

DHS Class of 1959 at 55th reunion



Shown in the photo above are members of the DHS Class of 1959 who attended their 55th reunion last Saturday at the Downingtown Country Club. They are, left to right: front row, Pat West Ensor, Francis Henderson, Jean Timmerman Swisher; second row, Mary Jane Sabellico Esworthy, Iva Darlington Siever, Pat Weber Paul, Carole Davis Turner, Nanci Jefferis Smedley, Duer Smedley; third row, Frances Wilkerson Oxendine, Sue Serafino Myers, Charles J. Ax, Jr., Patricia Moore Hershey, Harry McMinimee, Patty Daller Beaton, Elsie Strock Kocher, Margaret Miller Messner, Jeanne Emery Veltro; fourth row, William R. Brookover, Glen Mull, Harriet "Cookie" Seibert Pannebaker, Alfonso Bucci, Ross Mowery, Ron Tipton, Henry Roth; top row, Olin Siever, Jack Swarner, Frank Marcocci, Ralph Milliron, Lewis Wilkerson.

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It was the Stong home on Skelp Level Road in East Caln



Several people tried to identify the house in the photo above, but no one was even close. The photo was taken by Ron Tipton in the late 1950s, when he attended DHS with several of the Stong boys.

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.net, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Hope For Helm Fundraiser

Matt Helm is paralyzed from the waist down, due to a recent kayaking accident. Matt was born and raised in Downingtown, and is known as an exceptional person and a tremendous athlete. He and his wife, Lindsay Helm, live in Downingtown and had a new son, Hunter Helm, in August. The family faces a difficult financial situation in the coming months due to the medical expenses incurred from the accident. To help alleviate some of their worries, everyone is invited to the first annual Hope for Helm event, to be held from 6-10 PM on Saturday, November 15 at the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford. There will be dinner and drinks, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. To purchase tickets to the event and for more info, see: www.hopeforhelm.com

Pancake Breakfast

There will be a pancake breakfast, along with a bake sale, at Romansville United Methodist Church, 859 W. Strasburg Road, from 8-11 AM Saturday, Sept. 27. Breakfasts are \$6; no charge for kids 5 and under. Mums also will be on sale; however, they must be pre-ordered via a call to Debbie at 610-486-6079.

Fire Prevention Event

The Downingtown Fire Department will be hosting a Fire Prevention Event for the entire family from 11 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 4 on the Wallace Avenue parking lot of Kerr Park.

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 27, from 10 AM to 2 PM. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Soccer Program

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Hickory Park, 351 Park Rd., Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, beginning on Sept. 6. The free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We also need high school students to help out as one-on-one buddies -- no soccer experience necessary. For more info and to register, go to:

www.geyasoccer.org.

Golf Tournament

Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club will have a golf tournament on Wednesday, October 15 at Downingtown Country Club. Registration is at 2:30 PM., and the shot-gun start is at 3 PM. Corporate Package (\$425) includes foursome for 9 holes (scramble play), cart, name on one tee box or green on course and at reception, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar.

Individual Golf (\$85) includes 9 holes, cart, prizes, cocktail reception with appetizers and one hour open bar. Hole Sponsor (\$100) includes name on one tee box or green on course. Cocktail Reception (\$30) includes appetizers and one hour open bar 5 PM to 7 PM. Register via Chamber website: www.dtrcc.com.

2 Winners Will Get a Playhouse

The Homebuilders of Chester and Delaware Counties are sponsoring a fundraiser in which two winners will win a backyard playhouse. The playhouses are 8 feet wide, 8 feet long and 8 feet tall. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Kenzie's Kure, whose mission is to cure Type 1 Diabetes. Tickets are \$25 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Fall Into Fabulous event at the Downingtown Country Club on October 2. For more details and buy tickets, click on: www2.jdrf.org/fallintofabulous.

Log House Dinner Raffle

Winner of the raffle will win a dinner for four at the Downingtown Log House on Lancaster Avenue. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. To purchase raffle tickets—\$50 each—call Ginny Pierce, 610-269-2750. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Senior Center's Harvest Hop on November 8.

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 at 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.

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.