



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 response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Happenings in the Downingtown area 52 years ago

Noted below are tidbits of news published in local papers in the latter part of March 1963.

Some 200 members of the Chester County Medical Society and their families set up a “mock clinic” at **St. Anthony’s Lodge**, Downingtown, in preparation for Sabin Oral Sunday on March 24, when oral polio vaccines were to be administered to thousands of Chester County residents at 37 immunization centers. Nearly 700 volunteers worked at the immunization centers.

The **Downingtown Joint High School Board** adopted a record-breaking \$1,080, 946 budget for the 1963-64 school year. Most of the \$138,696 increase over the previous year’s budget was caused by the addition of 10 new teachers and an approximate \$400 salary increase for all teachers, in effort to be competitive with neighboring school districts.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** learned that the Continental Can Co. would not move its operation in Devon to Downingtown, but at least one other industry was likely to relocate into the Downingtown area. Also, the **Shannon Airport** (located today in West Bradford, on the site of the United Sports Training Center) wasn’t eligible for federal funds to be used to help pay for an expansion because only publicly-owned airports were eligible to receive funding from the Federal Aviation Agency.

In a pre-season interview, **DHS baseball** coach Charlie Forte said there were only five returning lettermen and only two had been starters last year. Those returnees from the 1962 squad, which had a 4-7 record in Ches-Mont competition, were George Murphy, Beanie Williams, John Lauffer, Jim Jackson and Ellis Brown.

Elected to lead the **Marshallton Branch** of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary were: Mrs. William Pancoast, president; Mrs. Lawrence Steele, vice president; Mrs. Frank Wright, secretary; Mrs. Morris Wood, treasurer; and Elizabeth Jones, corresponding secretary.

Downingtown Junior High’s student newspaper, *The Scribe*, won second place in nationwide competition, sponsored by the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association. Fred Martin was the newspaper’s editor.

Randall’s hair styling salon, at 213 Chestnut St., Downingtown, was offering a \$20 cold wave for only \$10 at its grand opening.

Members of the newly-formed **Boy Scout Troop 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, who met their Tenderfoot requirements, were Harry Joyner, Robert Kangas, Michael Norris, Jimmie Jarvis, Gary Stern, Joseph Hilton, Philip Garnett, Charles Diem and Thomas Hickey.

Seventh grade students in Margaret Smith’s history class at the **Junior High** put on a play about Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Douglas Gindin portrayed Lincoln, Gordon James was Lee, and Tom Bowman played Grant. Other members of the cast were Dennis Henderson, Pete Supple, James Slonaker, Carl Mack, Mike Alexander, Barry Ortlip, Ralph Eller, Charles Williams, Fred Pollock, Margaret Dickenson, Peggy Staneski and Robert Woodard.

When Alex Bell, Villanova University’s football coach, was introduced as the featured speaker at the father-son breakfast, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of **St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**, six-year-old Jackie Helm pounded out the Villanova fight song on the piano. In addition to being the son of former Villanova football star Jack Helm Sr., Jackie was the grandson of Downingtown piano teacher Margaretta Helm.

Fourth graders from **Lionville Elementary School**, who put on a tumbling exhibition at the Pennsylvania Physical Education Convention in Philadelphia, were Robert Dunn, Greg and

Gerry Hartman, Robert Flick, Larry Long, Kevin Boyle, Linda Wunch, Carol Koser, Lynn Hoag, Mary Alice Worthington, Leslie Schultz, Susan Eubanks and Valerie Demos.

Students from **East Ward School**, who participated in the Downingtown School District's Science Fair, included first graders Richard McCardell and Laurie Usher, second grader Judy Foreman, and fourth graders Nancy Kohlhas, Francine Gabel, William Wilmot and Stephanie Parker.

Girls who earned the rank of Tenderfoot and were invested into **Girl Scout Troop 314**, Glenmoore, were Diane Bradbury, Patricia Forrester, Jean Hohl, Dorothy Slonaker, Janet Styer and Cathy Walker.

Members of the **Beaver Creek School** basketball team, which had a 14-2 overall record, were Steve Long, Bob Ifert, John Stoviak, Tom Stoner, Farney Cattell, Mike Smith, Fred Reutter, Jack Leonard and Billy Klunk. Scorekeepers and timers for the team's games were Annawynn Menas, Helen Bittmann and Wendy Wetherill.

Downingtown area news during the summer of 1918

Noted below are news items retrieved from summer 1918 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Downingtown Burgess (Mayor) Vinton Philips responded to current complaints about pigs being kept by borough residents by noting that an ordinance, passed in 1862, **prohibited pig pens** being located within 100 feet of any dwelling.

The U.S. Civil Service Commission announced that an examination for candidates for postmaster of the **East Downingtown Post Office** were to be given. The postmaster's annual salary was \$1,900.

Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** unanimously agreed to buy a Seagrave motor-driven, combination chemical and pump truck, which cost \$9,500.

The Sunday Schools of the **four Protestant churches** in Downingtown had a joint, all-day picnic on a Thursday in August at Lenape Park. About 1,000 local Sunday schoolers attended the picnic. Many of the men who attended the picnic, held on a Thursday, had been given the day off by their borough employers so they could join their families at the park.

In response to an appeal by the Federal Food Administration, a **community market** was established in a commercial garage owned by Joseph Hoopes, at the intersection of Manor and Lancaster Avenues in the borough. The cooperative market enabled the direct sale of local farmers' surplus garden products to area residents.

The **Downingtown Iron Works**, which had four workers in its tiny plant when it was started in 1914, had 185 production employees and a much larger office staff in a significantly bigger facility four years later. Much of the firm's growth was due to federal government contracts during World War I. And plant's \$7,000 weekly payroll was critical to the area's economy.

Herbie Lee to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame

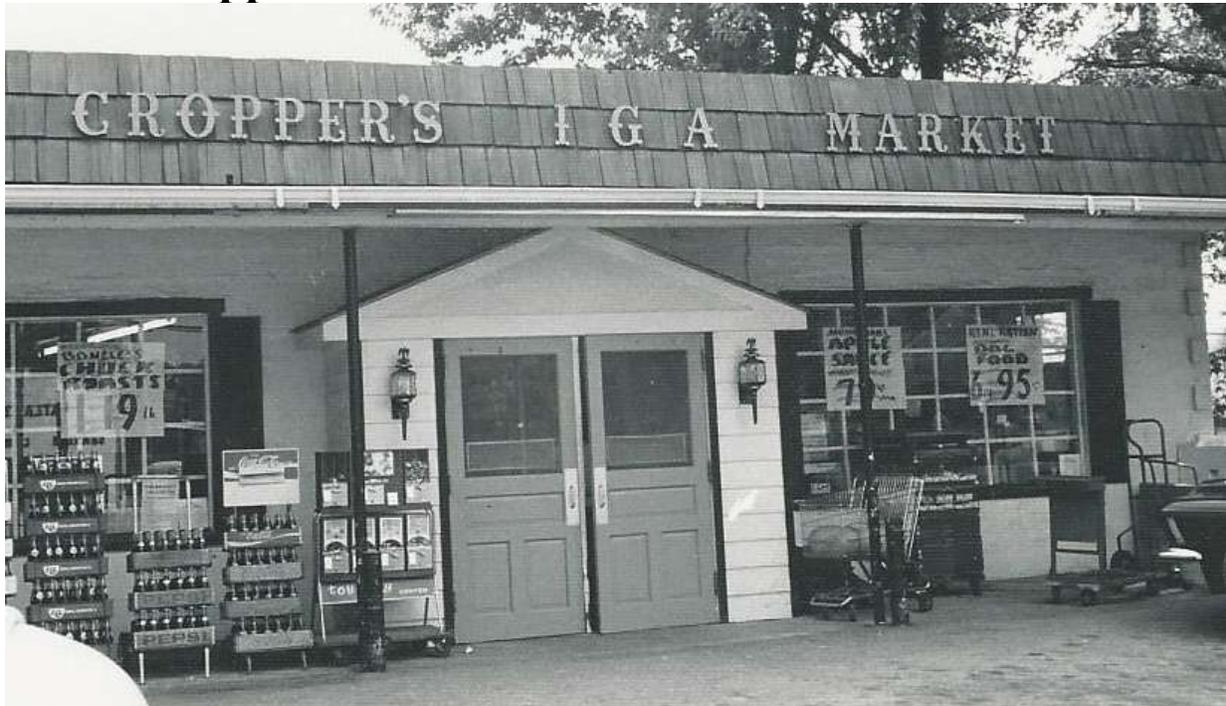
Herbert "Herbie" Lee, Class of 1954, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131st annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing: www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html.

Lee, who is being posthumously recognized for his achievements in education and community service, was an educator, athlete, coach, mentor and pioneer in education. He began his education in a segregated classroom at West Ward Elementary School in Downingtown. And he went on to establish himself as an outstanding student-athlete, when he played football for DHS, the University of Illinois and West Chester University, where he was selected as all-conference offensive guard and defensive end.

Lee began his career in education with teaching positions in the West Chester, Phoenixville and Downingtown School Districts. He subsequently was a professor and chairperson in the Department of Educational Services at West Chester University. Among many other positions at WCU, he was an assistant football coach and student teaching supervisor.

And he was the first director of the Chester County Head Start Program, President of the Downingtown Lions Club, President of the WCU Alumni Association and President of the DHS Alumni Association. Also, he pioneered the innovative Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) for minority students and received, among many other awards, the NAACP Human Rights Award. The winner of the Battle of the Brandywine (Downingtown's annual East vs. West high school football game) receives the Herbie Lee Trophy.

When Cropper's Market was at Route 322 & Bondsville Rd.



Ellen Van Lew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many callers who correctly identified the building in the above photo as the original Cropper's IGA Market, which was located at the intersection of Route 322 and Bondsville Road in Guthriesville, when Bob Cropper and his wife, Lora, opened it in 1953. It's where Weaver Memorials business is located today.

In 1975, Bob and his son, John, bought the property at 1155 Horseshoe Pike and built a supermarket that was four times larger than the original store. That store was where Guthriesville Hardware is now located. And in 1995, Cropper's became the flagship of the Brandywine Village Shopping Center, at 1257

Horseshoe Pike. In 2002, Cropper's was purchased by Associated Wholesalers Inc., and in 2011, AWI sold the store to the Stauffer's chain, which also has several supermarkets in central Pennsylvania.

Clip Joint won't be open on Easter Sunday

Although a group of volunteers usually come to Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln on the first Sunday of each month to clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection, the next Clip Joint session will be held on Sunday (1-4 PM) April 12 because the first Sunday in April will be on Easter.

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, 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.

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, Phil Dague and Rahn Brackin.

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

Old Caln Historical Society events

The Old Caln Historical Society is sponsoring these events:

An open house on Sunday, April 12 from 1- 3 PM, will include free tours of the Old Caln Meetinghouse and Museum (circa 1726) on Route 340, Thorndale and the Hexagonal Schoolhouse (circa 1837) on Municipal Drive, Thorndale. The tours will be given by members of the Old Caln Historical Society and the Caln Township Historical Commission. The public is invited and parking is available. For information call 610-384-8153.

A program on the Underground Railroad in Chester County will be given at 2 PM on Sunday, April 19 at the Caln Township Municipal Building. Christopher Desmond, director of the Friends Historical Library at both Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges, and well known writer and speaker on the Underground

Railroad, will present the program. The program is free and parking is available. Please use the back door of the meeting room. For information call 610-384-8153.

Also, table space is available for the Historical Society's Craft/Antique/Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9 AM-2 PM on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. For information please call 610-384-9496 or 610-384-8153.

Senior Center's Spring Fling

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have a Spring Fling at the Lexus of Chester Springs dealership on 400 Pottstown Pike, from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 25. The fundraiser will include a dinner cabaret, which begins at 9 PM. Cost is \$75 per person. For more details or to purchase tickets, please call Sue McIntyre, associate director, at 610-269-3939, or access:

http://downingtownsensiors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22.

Trout Rodeo

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club will have a free Kids Only (15 and younger) Trout Rodeo at Kerr Park in Downingtown on Saturday, April 18. Registration begins at 8 AM and the Rodeo will be from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Basket Bingo for scholarship.

Sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and benefiting the Chamber's Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund, the Longaberger/Vera Bradley Basket Bingo will be held Sunday, April 19 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors open at noon. Bingo begins at 1 PM. Tickets are \$20 (includes 20 regular games). Prizes are filled Longaberger Baskets & Longaberger Pottery and Vera Bradley items. Raffle and door prizes; (4) special games of Bingo; food available for purchase. For tickets or info, call Rochelle at 610-383-1114 or via Dimatteo003@yahoo.com

Nite at the Races

A Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races will be offered on Saturday, May 2 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown. Doors open at 6 PM. Races start after a viewing of the actual Kentucky Derby on TV. Cost: \$25 per person; limited number of tickets available for \$30 at the door. Includes beef and beer & soda. Cash bar. Adults over 21 only. Benefits Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee. To order tickets go to: www.dtownchristmas.com/Documents/NATR2015/TICKETS-HORSES%20FORM.pdf. For more info, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

Bus trip to Washington, DC

Phil Dague and the 97th PVI Civil War reenacting group are hosting a "Washington, DC on your own" bus trip on Sunday May 17, and the public is invited. Guests will meet at the Downingtown Library at 122 Wallace Ave. in Downingtown at 5:30 AM where they will board a Krapf luxury coach bus. Upon arrival in our nation's capital at 8 AM, you will be free to explore D.C. on your own. Washington will be bustling with activity on that spring day, including "The Grand Review 150th," a parade commemorating a parade that happened 150 years ago, marking the end of the Civil War. At 4:30 PM, we will start our return trip back to Downingtown, with a stop along the way for dinner (not included), arriving back home at 8:30 PM. It's a long day, but you can nap on the bus! The cost is \$40 per person. If you are interested, please e-mail Phil at PRD1961@gmail.com, or call (610)873-7059.

Registration for soccer players with special needs

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Fellowship Field #1, 241 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, from April 11 to May 30. This free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We need teens and adults to volunteer as "buddies" to work one-on-one with players. No soccer experience necessary -- just enthusiasm! For more info and to register, go to: www.geyasoccer.org

5K race for Downingtown Library

The Readers on the Run 5K race and a 1 Mile walk, plus a Kids Dash will be held on Green Street in Downingtown on Saturday morning, April 11. The races will benefit the Downingtown Library. For details

and to register on line, go to: <http://library5k.secondwindtiming.com> or you can pick up a registration form at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue.

Point-to-Point Race

The 73rd running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point race will be held on Sunday, April 5 at the Brandywine Valley Association's Myrick Conservation Center, on Route 842, between Unionville and West Chester. Gates open at 10 AM. First race: 11:30 AM. General admission is \$20 per carload. For more info, see: www.brandywinewatershed.org/pointtopoint.

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 unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.