



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Prank in *Archive* in 1920 worked again in Hist-O-Gram

Perhaps you recall reading the news item noted below, which was published in July 9, 2015 Hist-O-Gram. That article was based on a news report in the December 23, 1920 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* about a game allegedly played on December 22, 1920.

*The Minquas Fire Company's gym was the scene of a college basketball game between Penn State and Dartmouth, which the Nittany Lions won by a 48-34 score. Charlie Way of Downingtown, who had been named the left halfback on Walter Camp's 1920 All-American football team, and Glenn Killinger, who later became a legendary football coach at West Chester State College, were two star football players who also played on Penn State's basketball squad. It was an important game for Dartmouth because the Big Green wanted to avenge its football team's 14-7 loss to Penn State two months earlier, when Killinger's 52-yard return of an intercepted Dartmouth pass, sewed up the victory. That contest, billed at the time as "the greatest football game in the eastern part of the country," was played before 12,000 fans in the new Beaver Field, whose wooden bleachers could only accommodate 5,000 spectators.*

Frankly, we were pretty impressed with the "fact" that two major colleges teams would travel all the way to little Downingtown, PA, to play a basketball game in the gym on the second floor of the Minquas fire hall. And they made that trip just three days before Christmas!

Of course, we realized that college basketball 95 years ago was small potatoes compared to the wildly popular sport it is today. But, after all, we thought, the information had been published in a newspaper; so it had to be true.

Subsequently, however, the story still didn't pass the "smell test." So, we contacted a Dartmouth grad, John Bousum, Class of 1960, who has lived in the Downingtown area all of his life. Not one to dawdle, John immediately sent an email to Dartmouth's Dean of the College, seeking confirmation on the alleged game in Downingtown.

Life must slow down considerably on the Dartmouth campus in July, because John's query quickly landed in the college's library, where Dr. Morgan Swan, reference librarian, replied, "I'm now officially intrigued." Swan scanned pages from the student newspaper and the Dartmouth yearbook that covered the college's basketball squad during the 1920-21 season, and emailed them to John. There was no mention of a Dartmouth vs. Penn State basketball game in any of the material he had emailed.

Our next step was to check out sources up at University Park, PA. That's where Paul Dzyak, Penn State sports archivist, aided our pursuit by emailing us information on the Nittany Lions' 1920-21 basketball team, which he had retrieved from that academic year's yearbook, plus information on every basketball game Penn State played against Dartmouth. It showed that Penn State beat the Big Green in 1917, and didn't play Dartmouth again until 1942, when Penn State lost in a NCAA tournament contest. More important, the yearbook information on Penn State's 1920-21 basketball team revealed that Charlie Way wasn't even a member of the team. However, Glen Killinger was the team captain.

Obviously, we, as well as the *Downingtown Archive*, got snookered. We have no idea how the Downingtown weekly newspaper got the information on the game, which probably was a pick-up contest played by some Penn State students from the Philadelphia area, against guys who never had been in Hanover, New Hampshire. But we suspect Charlie Way, Glenn Killinger and their pals must have been laughing their heads off.

No laughs here; just a humbling experience.

## What local residents were talking about in early March 1948

Noted below are news items originally published on local newspaper 67 years ago:

- Downingtown contractor Leon Gable presented preliminary plans for the construction of a model Cape Cod-style house in the borough to 75 members of the Charles F. Moran American Legion Post, their wives and interested community residents at a meeting held in the Post's room in Borough Hall. The plan was to **build 25 of the bungalows on William Street**, beyond Ashton Avenue. Initially, the location of the housing project had been in the east end of the borough. Gabel said the single dwellings would cost about \$6,000, and they would include a living room, bath, kitchen and two bedrooms on the first floor. On the second floor, there was to be two unfinished rooms, to be finished by the owner at a later date. Construction of the 25 X 30 feet houses would be cinder block with a stucco exterior, and they would be heated with coal. Arrangements for mortgages were made with the Brandywine Savings and Loan Association. Originally, the housing project was to be limited to former military service people and their families, but the widespread enthusiasm resulted in making the new houses available to all who wanted inexpensive housing.

- Building improvement plans at the **Minquas Fire Co.** were presented by Atlee Nye. They included the former gymnasium (the site of DHS basketball teams and community dances in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century) on the second floor being changed into a large recreation area, containing three card rooms, a 30-foot long bar and shuffleboard. Also, the firefighters had received their new, double-breasted, dark blue uniforms. New members were Ronald West, Lewis McFalls, Lambert McGuckin, Paul Fillman, Joseph Roney, Luigi D'Addazio, Charles Gilbert, James Daylor and John Gregory.

- **Lionville Elementary School** students who made the honor roll were Gwen Hamer, Janet Wallace, Cora Smedley, Robert Ross, Kathleen Levingood and Barbara Rosenbaum. Also, sixth graders who were on the student newspaper staff included Dorinda Mabry, Harry Dewees, Ronald Otter, Tommy Fisher, Richard Taylor, Meredith Ruark and Sammy Smith.

- The **Downingtwn Sportsmen's Club** elected the following officers: Elmer Schrupf, president; Amos Summers, vice president; Edward Dunmore, secretary; George Aumiller, treasurer; and trustees James Dukeman, Earl Stern and Clyde Lemmon.

- The **Downingtwn Chamber of Commerce's** Christmas Committee announced plans for a charity ball, to be held in the fall. Members of the committee were James Fennelly, Stanley Walters, Richard Lowry, Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Everett Hoopes. Proceeds from the event were to be used to pay for the community's Christmas programs. The chamber also planned to have a sunrise service at the DHS stadium on Easter Sunday morning.

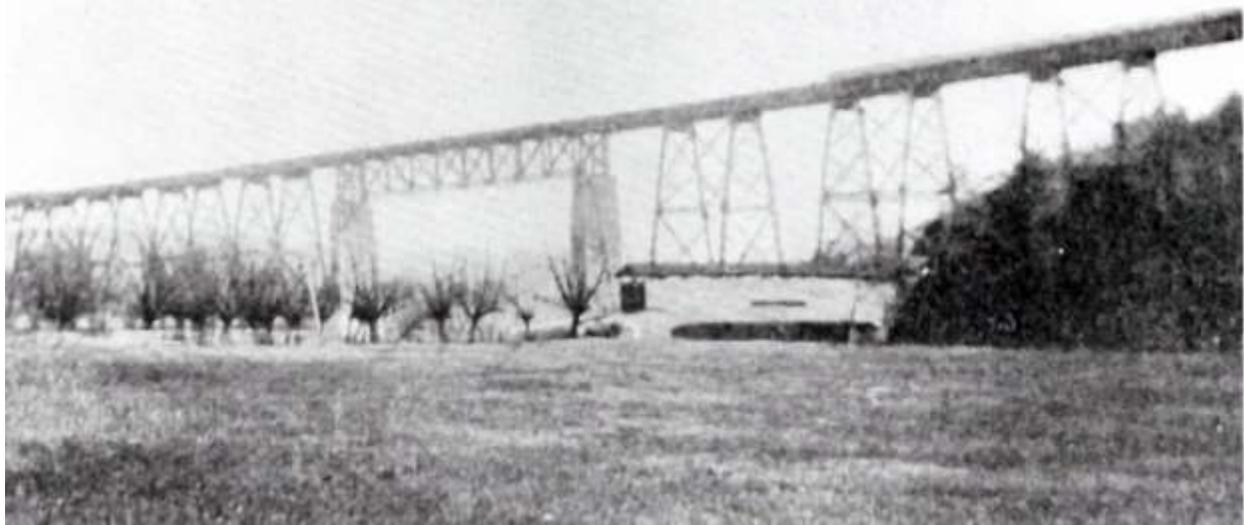
- A new Ladies Society was organized at **Messiah Lutheran Church**. The officers were Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Earl Shirk, vice president; Mrs. Leon Dickinson, secretary; and Mrs. Edwin Murray, treasurer.

- Members and leaders of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a weekend at Camp Horseshoe, were Robert Bunting Sr., Robert Bunting Jr., Howard Smoyer, Robert Ciaffoni, Kenneth Trimble, Ronald Yetter, Raymond Fellenbaum, James and Donald Liney, Carl Bane, Dale Ellingworth, Robin Nelson, Frederick Martin, Robert McCue, Joseph Ferri, and William Billings.

- An octet from DHS, who entertained members and guests at the **Downingtwn Lions Club's** Ladies Night, included Shirley Habecker, Philomena Cozzone, Netha Beumers, Caroline Saylor, Mary Graden, Margaret Sciarretta, Margaret Ciarlone and Virginia Bare.

- DHS students Ruth Schrupf, Austin Windle and Marjorie Lyons modeled the new marching band uniforms at a meeting of the **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary**, which had donated \$1,000 to the band uniform fund.
- **Girl Scout troops** in the Downingtown area celebrated the national organization's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary by displaying examples of the craft items they had created, in the windows of local businesses. The **Downingtown Lions Club** awarded cash prizes for the best exhibits. First place was won by Troop 94, led by Mrs. William Gibbs, for its ceramics display in the window of the Downingtown Motor Co. Mrs. Leo Hamilton and Mrs. Russell Gilkin helped the girls make and display their ceramic pieces.

## It was the Kerr-Hoopes Bridge (1852-1929)



No, we didn't run the photo above in last week's Hist-O-Gram because we thought almost everyone would recognize the Trestle Bridge. Instead, we were wondering if anyone would correctly identify the Kerr-Hoopes covered bridge, which was next to the Trestle Bridge in East Caln, just south of Downingtown. We found the photo of the covered bridge and much of its history in "Pictorial History of Chester County," authored in 2000 by Downingtown banker Spencer Windle. The bridge was built for \$1,377 in 1852 by Robert Russell. And Jack Hines is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person who identified the covered bridge. Most important, Jack told us that Franklin Malin was killed and a companion was seriously injured in 1907 when Malin drove a steam-powered, 8-ton tractor over the bridge's flooring, which gave way due to the excessive weight, and the farm vehicle collapsed into the Brandywine. The county repaired the bridge, and most of the siding was removed in 1920. In 1929, the State Department of Highways replaced the old bridge with a steel structure, which was later relocated east of the Trestle Bridge, and the County sold the remnants of the old bridge for \$50.

# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well:

- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball team, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League.
- Any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.
- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

If you need more info about either of these requests, please send an email to:

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org). And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

## Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your 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, Mike Dunn, Francine Dague, Phil Dague, Rahn Brackin and Donna Capriotti.*

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

### ***MultiSport Festival***

An all-day Downingtown MultiSport Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Kerr Park, Downingtown, beginning at 9 AM. Events include; a kids' fun run, a group bike ride, and an adventure challenge, plus CrossFit and skateboarding tournaments and tae kwon do, roller derby and tennis demonstrations. Proceeds go to Downingtown Library, Downingtown Skate Park, the Team CMMD Foundation, and the Chester County Hero Fund. For more info, see: <http://downingtownmultisportfestival.org/>.

### ***Drug Take Back Day***

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12. 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. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Field Day***

Downingtown's Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor a Field Day from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at Kerr Park. Activities include: games for kids, prizes, raffles (prizes from Phila. Eagles and Flyers, Downingtown Playdium, Longwood Gardens) and a DJ. If you can be a volunteer that day, send an email to: [downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com](mailto:downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com).

### ***Amish Quilts***

Janneken Smucker, WCU History professor and author, will give a talk on "Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon," when the West Caln Historical Society's meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 15 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

### ***Teri's Run***

The 14th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be on Friday, September 12, beginning on Green Street in Downingtown. The event is dedicated to the memory of Downingtown's Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. This year's Run will also raise funds for research and raise awareness of Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia. The Run donated \$15,000 last year to the National Scleroderma Foundation, and it has raised over \$125,000 over the past 13 years for research into the cause and someday a cure for this debilitating disease. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM, followed at 7 PM by the 5K Run and the 1.5 mile Walk. The deadline for pre-registering (\$25) is August 28. Registration cost after August 28 is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 18 and under, and \$5 for the Kids Run. For more info, see: [www.terisrun.org/](http://www.terisrun.org/)

### ***Caln Community Day***

The Caln Township and the Caln Township Business Group are co-sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Caln Community Day, from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Caln Municipal Park in Thorndale. The event will include live entertainment, food, a children's area, a flea market sponsored by the Thorndale United Methodist Church and much more. New this year will be a Caln Police vs Thorndale Fire Department softball game at 2 PM.

### ***Clam Bake***

The Lionville Fire Co. will have its annual clam bake from 1-7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the firehouse on Village Avenue. Tickets (\$40 for adults) can be ordered via: [www.ticketriver.com/event/15728](http://www.ticketriver.com/event/15728). Food includes 3 dozen clams, plus corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, clam chowder and drinks including beer. Tickets for kids between 3 and 12 are \$20; they don't include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament.

### ***Flea Market***

The Eagle/Glenmoore Lions Club will have a flea market and craft sale from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at the corner of Park Road and Little Conestoga Road in Eagle. Rain date is 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, September 20. Those who wish to have a space should contact: [rebecca.nash@verizon.net](mailto:rebecca.nash@verizon.net).

### ***Summer Jam***

The last of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, August 28 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberlton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food, crafts and music. For more info, see: [www.downingtownmainstreet.com/calendar](http://www.downingtownmainstreet.com/calendar).

### ***Candlelight Dinner***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. Winner will win a Dinner for 4 people at the Log House in early November. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: [Vdiluigi@downingtown.org](mailto:Vdiluigi@downingtown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Art & Craft Show***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission will hold its annual Log House Art & Craft Show on Saturday, September 19, from noon – 4 PM at Kerr Park. Spaces are \$25. Vendor applications and information can be found on the website: [www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html](http://www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html)

### ***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.

### ***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](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).

### ***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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.