



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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What and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building on the left in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

More local news published in November 1963

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

- Although several school administrators said they believed it would be a wiser investment than an auxiliary gym, Downingtown's Joint Senior High School board decided not to spend \$213,000 for an Olympic-size **swimming pool** as part of an addition to DHS. The addition—which included 19 classrooms, an art room, a library, a gym and an administrative suite—increased the high school's capacity to 1,350.

- The Chester County Court paved the way for the opening of the **Greenback School** in Upper Uwchlan, despite the opposition of township administrator Forrest Gottier. The school was established by owner Rachel Gibbon as an academic school for boys in grades seven through 12 with a low intelligence quotient. However, based on testimony by several of the school's supporters, Gottier claimed the school would be a “mental institution,” which didn't conform with the township's zoning ordinance.

- New ranchers (starting at \$15,900) and two-story homes (\$16,900) in the **Rock Raymond Country Estates** development, on Rock Raymond Road in East Brandywine Township, were open for inspection.

- Elected to lead the **Opti-Mrs. Club** of Downingtown were: Mrs. Clifton Walton, president; Mrs. Donald Collier, vice president; Mrs. Clair Langham, secretary; and Mrs. Albert Burkhart, treasurer.

- New local businesses included: the **Downingtown Music Center**, 821 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, (organs pianos, stereos, TVs, records and musical instruments); and Barbara Peoples' **Beauty Hut** hair salon, 208 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.

- Girls received into **Brownie Troop 131** were: Deborah Ann Jones, Mary Ann Hildebeitel, Melanie Lacey, Sherry Lee Andress, Janice Wassmuth and Connie Williams.

- Major roles in the **DHS production** of “Bachelor Father,” the senior class play based on the TV show with the same name, were: Robert Poore, Mary Ellen Crosby, June Williamson, Kenneth Jordan, Ralph Kurash, Diane Gindin, and Yvonne Horsey.

- Baptized at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Pam Detterline, Leona Faddis, Sharon Plank, Louise Starkloff, Susan and James Stringer, Dale Malin, Sandy Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Barlow, Samuel Piper and Winfield Fryberger.

- DHS pupils on the staff of the **Blue and Gold student newspaper**, who attended a PA School Press Association conference in Greensburg, included: Sharon Donaghy, Pamela Krigbaum, Joy Wertz, Gail Dilworth, Connie Smedley and Fred Martin.

- Elected to lead the **East Brandywine Fire Co. Auxiliary** were: Dorothy Piersol, president; Peg Pierce, vice president; Beverly McCarty, recording secretary; Helen Laird, financial secretary; Ruth Lammey, treasurer; and Hannah Harner, chaplain; and trustees Olga Irons, Myra Thomas and Helen Frazer.

- **Uwchlan Township residents** elected to office in the November election, included: John Bausman, supervisor; James McQuail, auditor; and Raymond Williams, school board. Jonathan Windle was the judge of election; inspectors were Republican Warren Smith and Democrat William VanWyjk; and the election clerks were Mrs. Ernest Cornwall and Chester March.

- Mel Brodsky, **new DHS boys' basketball coach**, had only two returning lettermen (Bill Pollock and Clark Bartell, who were both 6-5). Other candidates for the starting five were Ken Sigle, Bob Helms, Barry Piersol and Bob Wagner. Brodsky, who had played for Temple University when the Owls suffered a one-point loss to Kentucky in the final round of the NCAA

championship tourney, conceded that most of the DHS players were “green, small, young and not particularly fast.” The Whippets had a 2-14 Ches-Mont League record last season.

- Four members of the **Downingtown Ministerium**—Rev. Richard Bartholomew, Rev. Howard Mattison, Rev. Howard Adams and Rev. Robert Taylor—conducted the borough’s Christmas lighting ceremonies on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park, next to the Log House. Charles Seibert led the group singing of Christmas carols.

- Newly-elected officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co.** were James Andrien, president; Jack Hines Sr., vice president; Robert Crawford, secretary; and C.L. Moore, treasurer. Ernest Fling was re-elected to the board.

- Harold Ritchie, chairman of the Pickering-Brandywine School Board’s building committee, reported that construction of the new **Pickering Valley School** in Upper Uwchlan would be completed in September.

- Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** sold Christmas trees at the fire house, for the benefit of the equipment fund. And trees were delivered to residences for no extra charge.

- Jane Forbes, Jayde Wassmuth, Carol Reutter, and Ruth Jane Bicking spearheaded the creation of **Girl Scout Troop 226** in Downingtown.

It’s at 351 Dowlin Forge Rd. in Uwchlan



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the site in the above photo as 351 Dowlin Forge Road in Uwchlan Township. For more information of the house, see: www.weichert.com/57903384/.

What area residents were talking about 91 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive in the fall of 1924:

- Plans for a **movie theatre** on West Lancaster Avenue, across from the Central School (later known as West Ward School), were unveiled at a public meeting in the school's auditorium. The multi-story theatre building plans also included a central post office, bowling alleys in the basement and a dance hall.
- An average of 80 students were being served bowls of soup, cocoa and milk at the new **East Ward School** in Downingtown. After the Christmas holidays, the menu was increased to include sandwiches and other "nourishing food." Members of the Home and School League assisted with preparation and distribution of the meals.
- The Downingtown Moose team competed in the newly established **Chester County Basketball League**. Members of the local squad included John Francella, Charlie Way, Sam Charles, Eugene Yeager, Dink Irwin, Clyde Hughes, George Davis and Robert Simmons. Other communities with teams in the league were Parkesburg, Christiana, West Chester and the Independent and Lukens teams from Coatesville.
- Downingtown Police Chief Tommy Gray led a raid on the **Swan Hotel** in the borough. In addition to discovering wine and liquor at the hotel, the cops found several slot machines. Stephen Woron, proprietor of the hotel, furnished \$1,000 bail. Meanwhile, Maurice Stolove, who had recently taken over the **Pennsylvania House**, said he planned to make big changes at the hotel next to the Pennsylvania Railroad station. In addition to converting several street level sections of the hotel into stores, Stolove also renovated rooms on the second floor, to include hot water, and new lighting fixtures and furniture.
- The **Uwchlan Good Roads Association** was formed in Lionville. Its main purpose was to have Route 113 macadamized. Officers of the association were Sherman Kirkpatrick, president; Thomas Furry, treasurer; and Perry Tyson, secretary.
- Arrangements were made to establish a **Rotary Club** in Downingtown. Charter officers were Dr. Joseph Huggins, president; Frank McGraw, vice president; Allen Keim, treasurer; and Charles Nice, secretary.

You can still buy Luminaria supplies & Xmas ornaments

You can purchase Luminaria supplies (candles, re-useable plastic bases, and/or bags) and Christmas ornaments depicting historic Downingtown sites at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln (next to the Chick Fil-A restaurant) from 1-4 PM on: Saturday, Dec. 19; and Sunday, December 20.

Christmas ornaments depicting local historic sites include: Downingtown Borough Hall, Old East Ward School, West Ward School, Alert Fire Hall, Minquas Fire Hall and Downingtown Junior-Senior High School. They cost \$5 each or three for \$10.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Carol Grigson, archivist. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague, Donna Capriotti, Annette Bethke and Dennis Walton.

Vintage ad of the week:



Select Your Christmas Gifts Now



In appreciation of the kind and ever increasing patronage of our Customers, we have this year secured an unusual assortment of Christmas Gifts. Our aim is to give the people of Downingtown and vicinity good goods at reasonable prices, and we earnestly hope you will take advantage of our immense stock and pay us a visit.

We Now Have on Display
VICTOR VICTROLAS
From \$25 to \$150

Also a Large Assortment of Victor Records
Including Many Christmas Records

Our Candy Department contains a full and complete line of delicious confections, including the best to choose from — Liggett's, Page & Shaw's and Belle Mead Sweets in 1 to 5 lb. boxes.

We are proud of our **Cigar Department**, with a full line of Domestic and Imported Cigars. Also pipes, Cigarettes and Smoking Sets. Cigars in Boxes of 10, 25, 50 and 100.

Stationery— Many handsome boxes, containing a generous supply of paper and envelopes, 25c to \$10. Christmas Cards, Booklets, Calendars and Post Cards.

Gift Boxes in various styles, shapes and colors.

Fountain Pens — Parker (Duofold), Waterman and Sheaffer's Pens and Pencils.

Perfumery — Toilet Waters, Talcum and Face Powders, all put up in stylish packages for Xmas Gift.

Brush and Comb Sets — Infant Sets, Toilet Sets, Candelabras, Electric Lamps, Candle Sticks.

Books — A full line of Popular Fiction, also Girls and Boy's Books.

Picture Frames in Wood and Ivory, Leather Goods, Ladies' and Gent's Pocket Books, Bill Folds, Card Cases Memorandum and Address Books, Gillette, Gem, Ever Ready and Duplex Safety Razors. Also a variety of Shaving Sets, Thermos Bottles and Universal Lunch Kits.

Cameras — Including Vest Pocket, Autographic and the Little Brownie. Films and Photographic Supplies.

Many other Useful and ~~Amusing~~ Gifts and Novelties will be found in various parts of the Store.

Be Sure to Get Your *Rexall* Weather Chart Calendar for 1924

C. C. HUTCHISON,

THE REXALL STORE
116 Lancaster Ave. East Downingtown, Pa.

This ad was published in The Archive in December 1923

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals. Since the first item is new, we have emboldened the typeface.

And thank you, **Rose Ciarlone**, for donating a copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's *History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church* to the Historical Society.

- **Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High marching bands and those worn by Downingtown firefighters in parades.**

- All DHS yearbooks published since 1970. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or 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 teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Holiday Food Drive

Area residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable item, such as canned vegetables and fruit, pancake mix and syrup, instant potatoes, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans, stews and soups at the East Caln Township office, 110 Bell Tavern Road. For more info, call: 610-269- 1989.

Community Sing

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas Community Sing at 11 AM on Sunday, December 20 at the Bradford Friends Meeting House, 1366 West Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Warm Coat Drive

The Downingtown Area Senior Center is sponsoring a Warm Coats Drive. New and gently used coats will be accepted at the Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, until Wednesday, Dec. 23. Call 610-269-3939 for details.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Dec. 19, Jan. 2 and 16, Feb. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

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 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.