



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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.

What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

News items from local newspapers which caught people's attention in the early part of June 1963 are noted below.

- Jay Peck and Virginia Young were the king and queen of **Marshallton School's** May Day celebration. Chosen as princesses were Elaine Siter, Linda Bateman, Barbara Griggs, Kate Anderson, Carol Shank, Marybeth Grigson, Terry Smyers, Sharon Fry, Susan Orloski and Robbin Lewis.
- Chester County Judge Thomas Gawthrop ruled that **Uwchlan's zoning ordinance**, which prohibited the establishment of trailer parks in the township was unconstitutional.
- The lowest bid, \$306,786, to build the 14-room **Pickering Valley School** was accepted by the Pickering-Brandywine School Board.
- Members of the **Class of 1966 at DHS**, who were ninth graders at the time, elected these officers: Carolyn Patrizio, president; Cinda Davey, vice president; Linda Lammey, secretary; Linda Wheatley, treasurer; and Carol DeMatteo, student council member.
- Participants in the flag ceremony at **Brownie Troop 83's** fly-up exercise were Alexis Ziobro, Barbara Loftus, Linda Stillwell and Rose Mascherino.
- Elected as officers of the Downingtown's **Women of the Moose** chapter were Alice Zittle, senior regent; Dorothy Dawson, junior regent; Winifred Hallman, chaplain; Dorothy Robinson, junior graduate regent; Katherine Lammey, secretary; and Mrs. Evan Marsh, treasurer.
- Members of the **Brandywine-Wallace School's PTA** elected the following officers: Stephen Lucas, president; Harold Thompson, vice president; Doris Kerr, secretary; and Ruth Lammey, treasurer.
- Proceeds from an auction held at the Thomas Phipps barn in Upper Uwchlan were given to buy equipment for the three baseball teams in the Eagle area, sponsored by the **Uwchland Men's Club**.
- New members of **Fairview Presbyterian Church** were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheldrake, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Frame, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Ellis, and Mr. and Mrs. William Jasinsky and daughter Susan.
- Members of the Downingtown-Chester Valley **Future Farmers of America** chapter elected these officers: William Peppernick, president; William McClain, vice president; Fred Miley, secretary; Paul Detweiler, assistant secretary; Steve Walker, treasurer; James Horsey, assistant treasurer; Ricky Stubbs, reporter; James Smith, sentinel; and Gary Hoxter, chaplain.
- When W.P. Canby, president of Downingtown's Borough Council, opened a second hearing on **fluoridating the town's water supply**, he commented, "More public interest has been aroused on this issue than any other for a long time.
- DHS students who received **faculty awards for excellence** in subjects at a senior assembly included Randy Reeve, English, social studies and health-physical education; William Pollock, mathematics; William Ash, science; Linda Poole, language and music; Patricia Dague, commercial; Clifford Murdaugh, art; Richard Wheatley, agriculture; D-Anne Thompson, home economics; and Xandra Koppenhaver, health-physical education.
- The **Downingtown Lions Club** presented a \$500 addressing machine to Handicrafters Inc., a workshop for the "handicapped" in Thorndale.
- Elected as officers of the **Lionville School PTA** were Mrs. Richard Plank, president; Douglas Paget, vice president; Mrs. John Krisch, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Williman, treasurer.

- Diplomas were awarded to 32 girls and 28 boys who graduated from **St. Joseph's Catholic School**, Downingtown. Awards for having the highest average were presented to Marlene DiLuigi and Michael Terramin. And the American Legion Award winners were Joanne Mento and Michael Lyons.
- Newly elected officers of **Boy Scout Troop 82**, Downingtown, were William Keller, chairman; Donald Forbes, assistant chairman; John Getty, treasurer; and Gilbert Cox, secretary.
- Some 350 persons came to a twilight supper at **St. Paul's UCC Church** in Lionville. Mrs. Henry Weaver, chaired the affair. She was assisted by co-chair Mrs. William Peterman. Mrs. William Whitely was hostess; Mrs. Richard Faddis was dining room chair; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Evans were in charge of tickets.
- Installed as officers of the Downingtown **VFW Post** were Stephen Bachkai, commander; Herbert Lambert, senior vice commander; Donald Forbes, junior vice commander; William Wilmot, quartermaster; Henry Thomas, chaplain; and trustees Harley Leavitt, Thomas Clark, Earl Parker, Theodore Jameson and Maurice Davis.
- Glenmoore Boy Scouts, guided by scoutmaster John Shrader, placed American flags at the gravesites of local **Civil War veterans** for Memorial Day. Twelve were interred at Glen Moor Methodist's cemetery, and 18 are at Fairview Presbyterian's cemetery.
- **West Bradford Fire Co.** announced plans to buy a new pumper, to augment the company's 1954 pumper and 1953 field piece.

Interesting local news 95 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* during the summer of 1920.

- Although the **Downingtown School Board** had considered, several months earlier, renting two portable classrooms to accommodate the school system's booming enrollment, the school directors were having second thoughts about that issue in August, when classes were to begin in less than 30 days.
- Burgess (mayor) Vinton Smedley suggested that **Borough Council** establish a Revisers' Committee to review all the borough ordinances and repeal those which were "unnecessary and antiquated." However, much of the Council's attention was focused on the town's streets at the time. Lancaster Avenue was loaded with pot holes because Council postponed fixing them, as it awaited the County and State to come through with a long-promised paving of the borough section of Route 30. A survey of vehicles travelling on the section of Route 30 between Coatesville and Downingtown over two days totaled 7,554. Before the main street was finally macadamized for the first time in 1921, the surface of Lancaster Avenue had been a combination of stone chips and oil. Maintenance of the borough streets was done with a steam roller and a mechanized street sweeper. And Council increased the pay of the borough street crew that summer—from \$90 a month to \$100.
- St. Anthony's Day was celebrated by "our Italian citizens" in June. The celebrations included a parade, band concerts and a fireworks display in the **Johnsontown** section of the borough.

- Mary Epeheimer offered the valedictory address, and Olive Miller delivered the salutatory at the **commencement exercises** for 25 students who graduated from DHS in 1920.
- Downingtown's **American Legion Post** decided to put off building a permanent home and decided to invest the several hundred dollars it had raised into U.S. bonds, which were paying 4.5% interest.
- The Chester Valley branch of the **American Red Cross** had a dance *in the middle of* Route 30 in the Whitford area. Proceeds from the event—participants paid 10 cents for each dance—were given to the Community Nurse program.
- The **Downingtown Library's** sixth annual report noted that 336 new books had been purchased, and 126 were donated to the library's collection. And the circulation for the year was 15,635.

Brief, but important

- **DHS West football** coach Mike Milano was inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame on Saturday. You'll learn why he received that recognition when you access: www.dailylocal.com/sports/20150613/d-west-milano-gets-hall-call.
- While chomping on a delicious sausage and peppers sandwich at **St. Joseph's Community Carnival** last weekend, we realized that the Historical Society would love to add some of the neat t-shirts worn over the years by the Carnival's volunteer staff to its archival collection. By the way, we have a bunch of **Good Neighbor Day (GND) t-shirts** given to participants in the Run For Life road race, in our archives. However, since GND has been a major event on the Fourth of July in Downingtown for 36 years, we know there are many more of those GND t-shirts we'd love to add to our archival collection. In fact, we'd like to have ANY t-shirt, which has a Downingtown connection imprinted on it, for our archival collection. And we'd also love to have some photos of the Big Wheel races in years past, especially any which include Gail McCahon, who's been running the Big Wheel races on GND since 1980.
- The July 10, 1941 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* included a large PECO ad, which touted **air conditioners** that could be installed in a window. Apparently, that market died quickly with the onset of WW II later in 1941, when many American industries started switching to the production of equipment for the U.S. armed forces.
- And the June 10, 1920 issue of the *Archive* noted that the East End Tennis Club's courts were located somewhere on Washington Avenue in the borough. If you know exactly where the courts were located on Washington Avenue, please tell us via: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

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.

It's at 26 South Village Avenue in Lionville



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar for the second consecutive week because he correctly identified the house in the photo above as being located at 26 South Village Avenue in Lionville. In fact, the house is one of the 39 buildings in the Lionville Historic District.

Sandy Brannan recalls her weeks at Camp Tweedale

Sandy Snyder Brannan, a lifetime resident of Glenmoore and former archivist for the Wallace Township Historical Commission, was one of those who were saddened to learn that Camp Tweedale, the Girl Scout camp established in 1939 near Oxford in southern Chester County, recently closed.

Many adult women who had camped at the 108-acre facility when they were much younger, sent petitions and letters protesting the closure to the Girl Scouts' Eastern Pennsylvania Council, but they fell on deaf ears.

Brannan was a member of the Girl Scout Senior Troop 213 and Intermediate Troop 174 in Glenmoore in the 1950s. When she went to Tweedale in the mid-1950s, Girl Scouts from Chester County had to pay just \$35 for a two-week stay at the camp.

She remembers one occasion when Boy Scouts from nearby Camp Horseshoe canoed over to Tweedale, “and we made a meal for them.” One of the dishes they prepared for the boys was peach cobbler. After it was prepared, Brannan explained, it was placed in a large can and cooked over a camp fire.

Brannan also remembers keeping food cool and away from hungry raccoons while on long hikes while at the camp. They used a contraption comprised of one can filled with water, another can and cheese cloth. Those hikes also involved digging latrines at their campsite. “No time for modesty,” recalls Brannan.

Back at Tweedale, says Brannan, she and her camp mates loved singing “crazy Girl Scout songs” after meals in the mess hall. She also enjoyed swimming at camp, except for the time they found a black snake in a corner of the bathhouse while changing into their swim suits. However, Brannan’s swimming opportunities soon came to halt when she suffered a deep wound on her leg while using a hand ax to cut down tree limbs in the camp’s forest area. “That was really sad, because living in the country I never had a chance to swim in a beautiful pool. And I still have the scar on my leg,” she added”

Apparently, Brannan had not done much rowing in a boat back home in Glenmoore, either. So, when she was rowing a boat one time at camp and kept going in circles, a camp leader said, “Sandy, give the oars to someone else.”

Although about 60 years have passed since she spent two weeks at Tweedale, Brannan still has many great memories of her camping experiences there.

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.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Good Neighbor Day Celebration

The 37th annual Downingtown Good Neighbor Day will be held Saturday, July 4. The day-long events start with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and Freedom Walk at 8 AM, followed by the Canoe and Big Wheel races at 11 AM. Approximately 2,800 athletes participate each year. Good Neighbor Day activities benefit the ambulance and rescue squads within the Downingtown Area School District. Throughout the day, you can enjoy fabulous food, visit 80-100 craft exhibitors, or simply enjoy one of the many activities and musical bands. The day is capped off with a Fireworks Grand Finale, which starts at dusk. For more info on the schedule of events, check:

www.goodneighborday.com.

Clean-Up Day

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Clean-up Day at Kerr Park from 9-11 AM on Saturday, June 27. Rain date will be 10 AM-Noon Sunday, June 28. For more info, send email via: downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com

Summer Jam

The first of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, June 26 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food. Crafts and music. For more info, see: www.downingtowmainstreet.com/calendar.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, July 25. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Links for the Library

A golf outing, sponsored by Roberts Subaru in Downingtown, will benefit the Downingtown Library. The outing will take place on **Monday, July 27, at Applecross Country Club in East Brandywine**. Package includes lunch, golf, on-course refreshments, reception, & barbeque dinner. Prizes will be awarded to top teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Roberts Subaru will also host a hole-in-one contest in which the winner will win a new Subaru. To purchase tickets via PayPal, click the link below. Payment can also be made by check and mailed to: Francine Dague 122 Wallace Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335. For more info, see: www.downingtownlibrary.org/.

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.

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: JPC Cheryl@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 very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.