



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.

What local residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items, which had been originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of May 1963:

- Although a new high school had been opened less than three years earlier, the **Downingtown Joint High School Board** voted to build an addition to DHS, which boosted the high school's student capacity to 1,115. Booming enrollment also forced the school board to plan for construction of a junior high school, next to Lionville Elementary School on Route 113, in 1967 or 1968. By increasing the high school's student capacity to 1,115 pupils, before starting the new junior high building, that enabled half of the district's ninth graders to attend the expanded high school while the other ninth graders stayed at the junior high on Manor Avenue in the borough. Also, the board agreed to accept a \$6,125 bid for 80 new marching band uniforms; the cost was to be evenly split between the Band Fathers organization and the school district. And Superintendent Raymond Baugher's annual salary was increased to \$15,000.
- **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, established in 1843, was celebrating its 120th anniversary. According to a church history, Rev. Thomas Griffith, pastor of Windsor Baptist Church in Upper Uwchlan, began holding preaching services on Sundays in the Guthriesville area in 1842. As a result, 48 people were baptized into Windsor Baptist Church that year. In February 1843, Joseph Guthrie, James Guie and Lewis Gray were chosen as deacons, and the church was organized by former members of Windsor Baptist.
- Student speakers at the **DHS commencement** were seniors Patricia Dague, Joan Klase, William Ash, Randy Reeve and William Pollock.
- Elected as trustees at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were John Cann, Nicholas Maropis, Robert Ellis, William Ludwick, Randall Yarnall, George Ekdahl, Harry Wickersham, Mrs. David Johnson and Robert Ludwick.
- Dr. Norman MacKenzie, chairman of Downingtown's Board of Health, outlined the benefits of **adding fluoride to the borough's water system** at a public meeting. However, local dentist Dr. Siegfried Dietrich claimed that many of his patients, who live in communities where the water supply was fluoridated, "have teeth that are worse than many from this community."
- The **DHS track team** won the Class B division of the District I track and field championships. Whippets who placed first included Clarence Wilkerson, mile run; Ed Donnon, pole vault; Jack Darby, javelin; and the mile relay team composed of Clark Bartell, Wilkerson, Bill Pollock and Sam Smith. Whippets who scored points at the PIAA state championships were: Donnon, third place in the pole vault; Wilkerson, fourth place in the mile run; and the mile relay team, fourth place.
- In its first interscholastic competition, the newly established **DHS varsity lacrosse team**, coached by Thelma Heller, lost to Phoenixville, but the Downingtown jayvee squad beat the Phantom junior varsity.
- Newly elected officers of the **Pickering Stickers** were Joy Henssler, president; Joan DiEnna, vice president; Donna Twaddell, secretary; Jacqueline West, song leader; and Katie Hallman, game leader.
- Third graders, who danced a Virginia Reel in a musical show with a western theme, performed at **Brandywine-Wallace School**, included: Robin Nellius, Peter Hickey, Pam Whiteman, Darlene Reber, Sharon Smith, Paul Givler, Debbie Alexander and Donna Fryberger. The saxophone duo of Sandy Lammey and Gary Cornog concluded the program by playing "Home on the Range."

- Cynthia Mumma was the May Queen in the May Procession at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**. Her attendants were Carol Kissh, Marlene DiLuigi, Joanne Mento, Alberta Dazio, Velenta Parker and Anne Marie Paccinelli. The queen's train was carried by Deborah Valentino, Christine Dailey, Diane Waska and Rene Bowman.
- These people were installed as officers of the **Marshallton PTA**: Mrs. Ronald Geedey, president; Mrs. Joseph Fell, vice president; Mrs. James Andrien, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Perdue, treasurer.
- Great Valley's baseball team's coach praised the performance of his pitcher, Paul Hurley, a sophomore who fanned seven Whippet batters as he helped the Patriots beat the **DHS baseball team 7-6**.
- Elected as officers of the Senior High group of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were Donna Rissel, president; Jill King, vice president; Carol Sinex, secretary; and Barry Piersol, treasurer.
- The **Downingtown Industrial Softball League** was applauded by Borough Council for raising \$3,500 so lights could be installed on the diamond at Kerr Park.
- Members of **Brownie Troop 83**, Downingtown, who took a trip on the Strasburg Railroad, were Diane Peterman, Josephine Morris, Michelle Guerrieri, Carla Justice, Carol Steidler, Anne DiBerardinis, Lena Stilwell, Kathy Windle, Mary Ann, Joan and Beverly Reutter, Rose Mascherino, Joyce Beam, Francene Gabel, Alexia Ziobro and Barbara Loftus.
- Officers elected to lead the **Lionville Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. Harold Trego, president; Mrs. Chester Mull, vice president; Mrs. John Herr, secretary; and Mrs. John Emberger, treasurer.
- Members of the safety patrol from **East Ward School**, who enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC, sponsored by the Automobile Club of Chester County, were David Pollock, Mike McCardell, Susan Smith, Pamela Davis, Linda Stoner and Harriet Peoples.
- **DHS industrial arts students** who won awards at the Delaware Valley Industrial Arts Fair in Philadelphia were William Kennedy, furniture making; David Dunlap, jewelry making, model making and machine shop; Harry Griffith, wood turning and art metal; Bert Nordblum, block printing; and Charles Wertz, machine shop.

Our Wish List

Here's our Wish List, which notes stuff the Historical Society especially needs to reach our goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well. We're starting our pursuit with a request for these items:

- DHS yearbooks published between 1965 and 1970.
- 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.
- A flatbed scanner that's capable of digitizing and depixelating slides, postcards and printed photos.

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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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.

We're looking for info on this site



Many of you may recognize this as the older part of the restaurant/banquet facility at the Downingtown Country Club, which was recently bought by former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski and several partners. The Jaworski group has asked us for some historical information on the house in the photo above, as well as the rest of the country club property. Specifically, they're looking for details on when part of the property was owned by J. Gibson McIlvain, whose family owned the Downingtown Paper Co., and when it was part of the Daniel and Charles Tabas's Downingtown Motor Inn resort. We're also interested in details from when the house was connected with the Lowebrook dairy farm. Please send any info you may have on the property to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

They're smiling because they love to clip and paste



The women in the photo above: front row, Linda Lefko, left, and Marie Hill, and back row, left to right: Carol Grigson, Terry Gaul and Donna Capriotti are smiling because they spend several hours on Thursday afternoons clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection. Mysteriously, men aren't included in those sessions. However, men do participate in the Clip Joint sessions (See notice below) on the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, June 7. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

It's at 1573 Camp Linden Road in West Bradford Twp.



Jack Law, chief of the West Bradford Fire Co., is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as part of the Trimbleville Historic District in West Bradford Township, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The farmhouse was part of a fording place over the Brandywine's West Branch, which some of the 12,000 British troops used to advance toward Chadds Ford and fight in the Battle of the Brandywine. The farmhouse also was the former Greenwood Boarding School in the early 19th Century. The building was sold to the Society for Ethical Culture of Philadelphia, which used it for many years as a summer camp for underprivileged children from Philadelphia. The house served as the Camp Linden's office and kitchen; bunkhouses were erected on the hill to the north.

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

Free movie

The East Ward Community Playground Committee will present a showing of Disney's: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" at 8 PM on Saturday, June 6 at the East Ward School Playground, 435 Washington Ave., Downingtown. This event is FREE and will include popcorn, water and ice pops! Bring chairs and blankets. Donations to the East Ward Community Playground Project will be accepted.

Chester County Mac & Cheese Cook-Off

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its annual Mac & Cheese Cook-Off at noon Sunday, June 7 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Music by School of Rock. Tickets: Adults, \$10; Kids, 6-12, \$5. 10% of proceeds will be donated to Aidan's Heart. For more details, see: www.maccheesecookoff.com/about/.

St. Joe's Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Manor Avenue, Downingtown, will have its annual Community Festival from 6-10 PM on Tuesday, June 16 to Thursday, June 18 and from 6 -11 PM on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20. Every Night is Family Night; ride all night for \$25. Live bands each night in the beer garden. Food booth located in front of the school building. Fireworks Friday night, June 19; rain date: Saturday, June 20.

Garden Tour

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will host their Images of Spring Garden Tour from noon to 4 PM on Sunday, June 14. The tour will include a variety of 10 picturesque gardens in the Downingtown area. Tickets are on sale now at the library, at 122 Wallace Ave., Downingtown, for \$20, or for \$23 on the day of the tour. The tour is open to adults and children ages 10 and over. For more information, see: www.downingtownlibrary.org, or contact Carolyn Marchesani at: friendscm2015@gmail.com.

Hope for Helm golf tournament

A two-man scramble golf tournament will be held on Saturday June 13 at the Honeybrook Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament will help Matt Helm and his family, as he recovers from a kayaking accident, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. For more details on the tournament, check out: www.hopeforhelm.com/#!/golftournament/c22d4

Program on companion dogs

West Caln Historical Society's program 7 PM Tuesday, June 16 will feature Richard Pomerantz's talk about a cancer companion canine. It will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building., 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The programs are free and open to the public.

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.