



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

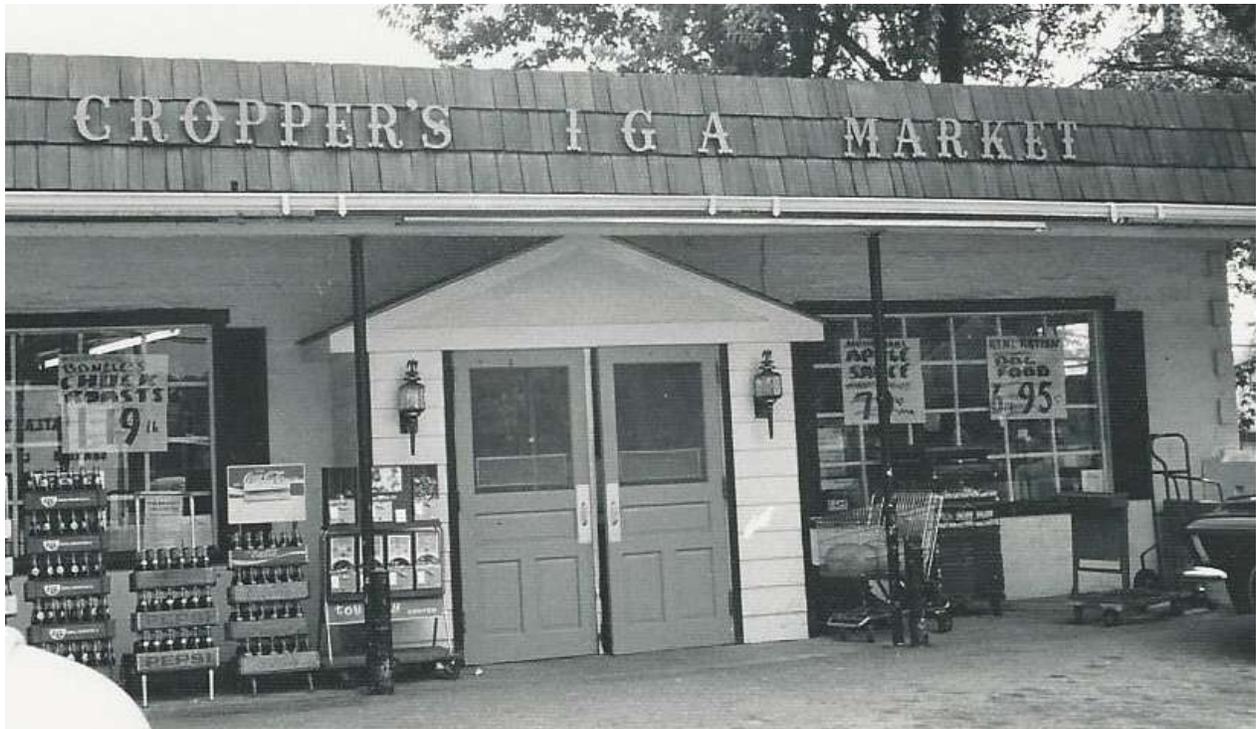
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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 location of the building in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news items 36 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of April 1979.

Plans for the **Hidden Valley Swim Club** in West Bradford drew spirited opposition from residents of the Montvale Circle neighborhood, who expressed concern about increased vehicular traffic, among other issues. The swim club property would include an Olympic-size pool, tennis

courts and out-buildings on a 5-acre site, behind a township park, off Montvale Circle. The site was to be purchased from Bob Hodge, according to Dave Stinson, spokesperson for the swim club. The private club was to be limited to 200 members, and 160 potential members had already had signed up.

Those who received their first Communion at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Betsy Autry, Paul Mills, Ken Petrie, Brad Titus and Donna Wilson.

Some 40 DHS students participated in a dance-a-thon sponsored by the student council. Held at Cliff and Gussie Irons' **Village Square Hall** in Guthriesville, the event raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Society.

Members of the children's chorus at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Katie Schug, Jeanne Elser, Brian and Erin Smith, Tracy and Beth Hain, Jason and Amy Marmon, Charles Romig, and Bobby, Erik and Cary Hockensmith.

Committee chairperson for the **West Bradford Home and School Association's** Barnyard Festival were Linda Smith, plants; Carol Wertz, boutique; Linda Moyer, games; and Ann O'Brien and Carol Marchitell, white elephant items.

Members from **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, who were elected to the county Christian Endeavor group were Charles Popjoy, president; Stan Miller, first vice president; Carole Styer, recording secretary; David Supplee, youth delegate; and Elmer Murdock, board of directors.

Bob Stevens and Pat Murphy were two of the ten Pennsylvanians who graduated from the **Babe Ruth League** managers' and coaches' training course.

Members of the **Marshallton Methodist Church**, who were elected to lead the United Methodist Women group were Alice Shoemaker, president; Joan Trimble, secretary; and Catherine Trimble, treasurer. Ethel Rissinger and Melody Herr were named chairmen of the Christian Personhood; and Jane Hill was named needlework chairman.

Firefighters honored at the **Downingtown Fire Department's** annual banquet were: Tom Lee and Phil Burns, who were named the Outstanding Firefighters of the Minquas and Alert Fire Co., respectively. And Priscilla Cumens, of the Women of the Minquas Fire Co. presented a \$400 check to the Minquas Fire Co., and Josephine Pacinelli of the Alert's Ladies Auxiliary presented a \$1,000 check to the Alert Fire Co.

Edith Hille, who was starting her fourth year at the helm of the five-year-old **DHS girls' track team**, said Debbie Donlon, Clarisse Foster, Jeanine Cheek, Leah Washington, Renee Gallman and Barbara McAuliffe had potential to score points in the dash events.

Major roles in a comedy mystery put on by members of the **Downingtown United Methodist Church**, were Henry Simmons, Joyce Harman, Lee Bradley and Rev. Dick Wolfe.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1412 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$45,900; 6 Arianna Lane, Uwchlan, \$82,300; 48 Marshall Circle, Caln, \$57,500; 112 Holly Drive, East Brandywine, \$76,850;

The **DHS boys' track team** opened its season with a 128-22 victory over Pottsgrove, as all the Whippets runners swept their events.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Area Education Association** were Bob Whitehead, president; Jackie McCalla, vice president; Margaret McFalls, corresponding secretary; and Nancy Robinson, representative-at-large.

William Brice, chief of **Uwchlan's Police Department**, told the township's supervisors that if people living in the Three Mile Island area had been evacuated, 10,000 of them would have been sent to Chester County and 500 of them would have been sent to Lionville Junior High School.



Matt McCausland sent us a bunch of neat items, including the above photo of students who attended Guthriesville School in 1947. The names of the kids in the photo are, left to right: front row, Lee Eckenroth, George Miller, ??, John Hackman, Jim Miller, Eddie Clayton, Eddie McCausland, Jr., Paul McComsey, Ira Eckenroth and Bill Arters; second row, Mildred Hart, Mary Jane Blosenski, Mary Ann DePaggio, Carrol Ann Burkholder, Alice Brubaker, Shirley Laird, Jane Irons, Peggy Hackman (partly hidden), Maxine and Marlene Ingram, Ruth Ann Burkey, Hayes Carr and Dave Thomas; back row, Christine Smith, Florence Miller, Mrs. Horner, Helene Fleming, Bob Arters and Charles Stringer.

What Downingtown area people were talking about 51 years ago

News items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* in April 1954 included:

- Horace “Junie” Miller was named manager of **Griffith’s Hardware Store**; Sam Graveno was in charge of electrical appliances and services; Frank Knauer was in charge of hardware, tools and paints; Warren Latshaw was responsible for shipping and receiving; and Betty Johnson handled gifts and housewares. Florence Waltz was the office manager.

- Earl Fulton was elected president of the **DHS Alumni Association**. Other officers were Thomas Deets, vice president; Mary Jane Pawling, recording secretary; and Barbara Mento, financial secretary.

- Members of the chorus in a musical variety show, put on by the Women’s Auxiliary of **St. Anthony’s Lodge**, included Agnes Girafalco, Rose DeLuca, Mary Farnum, Mary Ciarlone, Theresa Capriotti, Catherine Moschitta, Mary Mento, Jerry Marina, Jeanne Canestra, Molly Taraschi, Margaret DiLiberato, Florence DeLuca, Peggy DiOttavio, Josie Girafalco, Mary Cortelessa, Mary Sbei, Rose Formica, Irene Perella, Florence Bartelmo, Agnes Mento, Quindie Mento and Toni Morris.

- Herb Ash succeeded George Aumiller as president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Other new officers were Ralph Lineinger, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; Charles Richmond, treasurer; and Henry Smith, sergeant-at-arms.
- New committee members of **Boy Scout Troop 2** were Luigi D'Addezio, Jack Law, Stanley Sarmiento, Howard Hancock and John Stine.

John Gates to be inducted in DHS Hall of Fame

John Gates, Class of 1971, 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.

Gates, who is being recognized for his achievements in arts and entertainment, has been involved in the music business since 1967, as a drummer and vocalist. He started playing drums in local bands in 1971. In 1976, he signed with Capitol Records as a solo artist. By 1978, he had a contract with RCA Records, and continued his music career on an international level, performing and recording with well-known secular artists of the day and many major TV shows. In 1985, he was asked to join Benson Recording Artists, GLAD. Since then, they have recorded 19 albums and traveled throughout the world doing concerts and communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also continued to freelance as a session drummer and vocalist until 2005, at which point he moved into Christian radio full time. Until recently, he was the music director and on-air personality for Bridge FM radio in the NJ/NY Metro area.

Tidbits found in 1918 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*

Noted below are tidbits originally published by the *Downingtown Archive* during the early summer of 1918.

- In addition to several unidentified bands and representatives of industrial firms in the borough, members of the Boy Scouts, the Home Guard (boys 11-18 who drilled at the Minquas Fire Co.), both Downingtown fire companies, the Hancock GAR Post (Civil War vets), and Red Cross chapters from Downingtown, Wyebrook, Whitford, Marshallton and West Chester, the borough's annual Fourth of July parade also included a contingent from the Downingtown Colored Club. (*Editor's note: Anyone know anything about that organization?*) Following the morning parade, which formed on Church Street and continued through the borough, local residents went to the horse races at the track near the intersection of Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue, and St. Joseph Catholic Church's annual picnic.
- Thomas Hoskins, Chester County administrator for the U.S. Food Administration, announced that local restaurants could serve roast beef (hot or cold) only on Mondays at mid-day meals, and serving of stewed, boiled or beef hash was limited to mid-day meals on Wednesdays and Saturdays. But by-products of beef, such as oxtail, liver, tongue, sweetbreads, heart, kidney, brain and tripe could be served at any time. These were some of the constraints, established by the federal government in an effort to conserve food during World War I.

It's at 1150 Boot Road in East Caln



Marybeth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the above photo, taken by Mike Dunn, as 1150 Boot Road. It's in a section of East Caln, which was known as Ackworth.

According to an article about the hamlet of Ackworth in the January 17, 1988 edition of the *Daily Local News*, there was no concentration of homes in Ackworth, but it was an industrial center. The Baldwin family owned much of the land there, including a four-story woolen mill in the 1840s. By 1862, the mill had switched over to producing high quality silk velvet. In 1866, the mill was burned down by an arsonist, and all the machinery was destroyed. After a three-story mill was built on the site in 1872, the Pennsylvania Railroad acquired the mill and several nearby limestone quarries from the Baldwin family. In the early 20th Century, many of the Italian railroad workers and some of their families boarded at the former mill, which had been converted into a house. One of them, Dominic Castaldi of Downingtown, was born there in 1929. Today, the building is occupied by several business tenants.

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

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.

Free fishing clinic and Trout Rodeo

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club (BTCC) will have a free fishing clinic for kids at 9 AM Saturday, March 28 at the Moose Lodge, 233 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.

The BTCC also 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.

Flute choir concert

The Pennsylvania Flute Choir will perform a free concert at Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA, at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 28. The public is invited.

Easter egg hunt

East Caln's Park and Recreation Commission will host an Easter egg hunt for kids 9 and under at Bell Tavern Park from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, March 28.

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.

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

Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A re-scheduled

20% of sales at the Chick-Fil-A restaurants in Downingtown (Ashbridge Square) and Upper Uwchlan (Eagleview Blvd.) from 5:30 to 8 PM on Monday, March 30 will be donated to the Downingtown Library. A flyer-coupon for the event can be downloaded from the Library's website, www.downingtowntownlibrary.org, or be picked up at the Downingtown Library.

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 un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday 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.