



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

# Downingtowntown Area Historical Society

3rd Annual

“A Taste of Chester County”

## Restaurant Raffle

*Seven Restaurants*



*\$1400 worth of dinners*

Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant,  
The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn,  
The Orangery, The Bordley House Grill,  
The Downingtowntown Country Club.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue repairing the leaking stone walls of Ashbridge House, our headquarters in East Caln.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1400, for meals at the seven restaurants listed above. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are only **\$50 each**. You can purchase a ticket either by sending a check to: Downingtowntown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtowntown, PA 19335, or by purchasing a ticket online via:

[www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org/TasteOfCCRaffle.html](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org/TasteOfCCRaffle.html).

The winning ticket will be drawn at **3 PM on Sunday, November 29**. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, call 610-269-1709 or send a query to : [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

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## What local people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of October 1963:

- The State Department of Highways approved **Uwchlan Township's** application for overhead traffic lights at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113. The township supervisors also said flashing lights would soon be installed at the six-corner intersection at Route 113 in Lionville.
- **Urban renewal** plans for Downingtown's business district included the establishment of a Citizens' Advisory Committee. Members of the committee were: Albert Skiles, Edward Gillespie, Lee Hamilton, Ray Sheeler, Rev. Robert Taylor, Gilbert Cox, Gordon Carpenter, James Warnick, Warren Strawsnyder, Rev. Thomas Flowers, Anthony Viscichini and Rev. Richard Bartholomew.
- A delegation of parents asked the **Downingtown Elementary School Board** to appoint a crossing guard to supervise and assist the 173 students who caught one of the three school buses at Waterson's service station on Route 113 in East Caln. The request was approved, as long as East Caln's supervisors authorized the crossing guard. Also discussed at the meeting was the protracted, still-unresolved search for a site for a new elementary school in West Bradford Township. One of the challenges was the high cost of potential "development land."
- Leaders of the **Downingtown-Chester Valley Community Chest** campaign included: Stanley Walters, president; Chandler Cushman, residential drive, assisted by Lee Hamilton, M.M. Caffrey and Charles Seibert. Commercial employees were handled by Ray Schollenberger, assisted by Larry Polite; and professional people were covered by Dr. Richard Smith.
- Mrs. Theodore Noll was elected chairman of the Downingtown branch of the **American Red Cross**. Other officers were Mrs. William Bender, vice chairman; Mrs. Harry Martini, secretary; and Richard Warren, treasurer. Named to the board were Mrs. Lucy Lackey, Mrs. Robert Lucas, Mrs. Francis Strouse and Mrs. Fred Pollock. Service chairmen were: Richard Franklin, blood drive; Earl Stern, disaster; Mrs. Bender, Junior Red Cross and student volunteers; Dr. Herman Kramm, safety services; Raymond Lemmon, first aid; Mrs. David Ross, volunteer services; Mrs. Robert Garrett, Gray Ladies; Mrs. Earl Stern, motor service; and Mrs. Anthony Serafino, staff aides.
- Michael McCardell was captain of the safety patrol at **Beaver Creek School**. Ford Greenleaf was the lieutenant and Linda Stoner was the patrol's secretary. Other members were Pamela Davis, Susan Smith, Patricia Herion, Gwen Swarner, Robert Whiteman, Darla Zaso, William Hayward, David Williams, David Pollock, Daniel Hayes, Robert Hildebeitel, Nancy Romig, Edward Showalter and Rhys Williams.
- Officers of two youth fellowship groups at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included: Junior High group, Susie Myers, president; Sandy McCombs, vice president; Susan Reed, secretary; Jennifer Bruton, treasurer. And leaders of the Senior High group were Francis Strouse, president; Bill Barlow, vice president; Gina Myers, secretary; and Gordon Hickman, treasurer.
- Janine Davis was elected president of the **Future Teachers of America** chapter at DHS. Other officers were Rodger Geisel, vice president; Jan Strawsnyder, secretary; and Kenny Matthews, treasurer. And leaders of the DHS chapter of **Future Farmers of America** were William Peppernick, president; William McClain, vice president; Fred Miley, secretary; Paul Detweiler, assistant secretary; Steven Walker, treasurer; James Horsey, assistant treasurer; Gary Hoxter, chaplain; Richard Stine, parliamentarian; James Smith sentinel; and Ricky Stubbs, reporter.

- Officers of the **West Pikeland School PTA** were Mrs. Harley Fink, president; Mrs. James McClung, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, secretary; Mrs. Ernest Schreiber, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Charles Alfieri, treasurer.
- William vonHacht was president of the Student Council at **Downingtown Junior High School**. Other officers were Frances Williamson, vice president; Dawn Ratcliffe, secretary; and David Findley, treasurer. The Student Council's projects and their leaders were Philip Barlow, lost and found; David Seel, suggestion box; and Alan Novak, school store.
- Most of the first **DHS Homecoming** festivities were a huge success. The 4,000 spectators were pleased when several former standout football players and coaches were honored, and Homecoming Queen Dianne McDermott was crowned. However, Phoenixville's football team turned out to be the skunk at the party, as the Phantoms defeated the Whippets 32-6. Perhaps the nullification of John Miller's 80-yard kick-off return for a Downingtown touchdown due to a penalty was an indication of how the game would turn out. Clark Bartell helped DHS avoid a shutout when he blocked a Phoenixville punt, and Andy Harden scored a TD for the Blue and Gold five plays later.

## Nominations for DHS Alumni's Hall of Fame must be in by Dec.15

Nominations for the Downingtown High School Alumni Association's 2016 Hall of Fame must be submitted by mail or email by December 15, to: DAHS Hall of Fame Committee, 540 Trestle Place, Downingtown, PA 19335, or via [downingtownalumni@gmail.com](mailto:downingtownalumni@gmail.com). For more information on the third annual Hall of Fame, call (610)269-8460 ext. 6208, or access: [www.downingtownalumni.org/HallOfFame.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/HallOfFame.html).

Nomination criteria include: nominees must have graduated from any Downingtown Area High School at least ten years ago and self-nominations will not be considered. All nominations will be held in consideration for two years.

Accomplishments in the following areas will be considered: arts and entertainment; athletics and coaching; business and professional affiliations; charitable involvement; education and community service, military achievement, politics and government, science and engineering.

Selections of inductees will be announced by January 15, and their inductions in the Hall of Fame will be presented at the Alumni Association's 132<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on April 16. For more about the Alumni Banquet, access: [www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html).

## 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).

*Vintage ad of the week:*

**WANTED !**

**Young and Middle-Aged Women  
and Large Girls. Steady Work  
and Good Wages !**

**Downingtown Woolen Mills, Inc.**

**East Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was published in a 1923 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

*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.*

## Local news in *The Archive* in the summer of 1923

- The newly constructed **East Ward Elementary School** was ready to be opened in September 1923. The school included grades one through five, plus the consolidated “colored room.” Each day’s classes started at 8:30 AM and concluded at 3:40 PM. There was a 45-minute lunch period.
- About 75 members of the Washington Camp (Downingtown) of the **Patriotic Order of the Sons of America (POSA)** had their annual picnic at Feters’ Grove. In addition to quoits and a baseball game, other competitions included: a fat man’s race, leap frog, tug-of-war, and 100 yard dashes. Some 150 local members planned to march in the POSA’s Diamond Jubilee parade in Philadelphia, along with about 50,000 other POSA members from across the country.
- The **Minquas Fire Co.** reduced its debt by \$5,374, to \$3,900 in August 1923, after proceeds from a week-long fair and carnival in early July were counted up.

## It’s at 125 Township Line Road in Exton



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person to correctly identify the location of the site in the photo above as 125 Township Line Road in Exton. The house was built in 1865. For more info about the property, see: [www.trulia.com/property/3172734024-125-Township-Line-Rd-Exton-PA-19341](http://www.trulia.com/property/3172734024-125-Township-Line-Rd-Exton-PA-19341).

# What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of April 1948:

- Improvements needed at **Kerr Park** and the possibilities of how the **Log House** could be used were two of the topics discussed at a special meeting of Downingtown's Borough Council and the Dr. Kerr Memorial Park Commission. Park Plank, president of the Park Commission noted that the park's restrooms and water fountain were inoperative, and that use of tennis courts might be increased if the surface were switched from clay to macadam. Regarding the Log House, where a \$4,000 restoration had been completed, Nelson Dennis, borough council president, suggested that area social service agencies be queried for recommendations on how they might use the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century building. Another possibility discussed was having an answering service for physicians and other professionals be located in the Log House. However, before any of those possibilities were pursued, heating and electrical service would have to be installed there first.

- Elected to lead the **American Legion's** Downingtown Post were: Edward Lyman, senior vice commander; Maurie Davis, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Dr. William Wood, chaplain; Arthur Hyde, adjutant; Dr. Charles Bruton, surgeon; Robert Dougherty, patriotic instructor; James Dancy, service officer; Donald Forbes, legislative officer; Robinson McIlvaine, publicity officer; and trustees Gerald Whiteman, Henry Thomas, Franklin Dague, Joseph Petrella and James Fennelly.

- About 800 people turned out for the **DHS Spring Band Concert**. The 67 band members wore their new uniforms for the first time. Featured soloists were Duane Chesney, William Cole, Janet Kriebel, Annabelle Warnick and Frank DiSilvestro, plus a saxophone quartette comprised of Christy Christ, Sara Hall, Frank DiSilvestro and Everett Lang.

- Newly elected officers of the **Glen Moore Improvement Society** were Eleanor Bartol, president; Frank Henderson, vice president; Mrs. Walter Russell, secretary; and J.B. Matlack, treasurer.

- Voters in the Johnstown section of the borough were advised that their polling place had been changed to the garage behind the residence of **Anthony Fazzini**, 256 W. Church St.

- New officers of **Lionville's Odd Fellows** group included: Horace Wilson, noble grand; John Benner, vice grand; Everett Wilson, warden; Samuel Supplee, conductor; and Kenneth Kirkner, chaplain.

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were: Francis Francella, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Joseph Katherman, trustee; Earl Lemon, sergeant-at-arms; Marshall Nuse, inside guard; Donald Dixon, outside guard; and James Dolan, secretary.

- Elected as officers of the **Marshallton School PTA** were Mrs. Ernest Martin, president; Mrs. Gloria Chapman, vice president; and Mrs. John Trimble, treasurer. New playground equipment—swings, see-saws, rings, bars and slides—had been recently installed.

- The Mothers Club at Downingtown's **West Ward School** had elected these officers: Mrs. Atlee Ney, president; Mrs. George Bowman, vice president; Mrs. William Bolan, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Ax, treasurer.

# 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.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- 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 teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, 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](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Local Authors Day*

Fifteen local authors will be at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave., from noon until 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14, to sign their books, give readings and participate in a discussion panel. A great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping. Also the library's Bag Sale is underway; all the books you can fit in a bag for just \$3.

### *Vendor & Craft Show*

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co. will have a vendor and craft show from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the firehouse, 141 Wallace Ave., Downingtown.

### *Ghosts of St. Anthony's Lodge*

The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators will make a presentation at the Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, from 7-8:30 PM Sunday, Nov. 15, on what they found in an investigation at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown. Proceeds from \$5 donation will go to the fire company.

### *Sea-going Cowboys*

Mark Nestleroth, historian, B&B host, farmer and Heifer Int'l advocate, will talk about sea-going cowboys during World War II, when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 17 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### *Holiday Fair*

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 101 Worthington Road, Lionville, will have a Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21. There will be baskets for auction (ending at 2 PM), baked goods, attic treasures, good used toys and games, and lunch. Kids can have their picture taken with Santa, and make and take a craft. For more info, call 610-363-7285 or visit: [www.stpauluccexton.org](http://www.stpauluccexton.org).

### *Gift and Craft Show*

Crafters and vendors are invited to participate in a Holiday Gift & Craft Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21 at St. Anthony's Lodge, Church St., Downingtown. Tables are available for \$40. The show is sponsored by St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary. Free admission and refreshments can be purchased. To book a table or more info, contact: Angela at 484-459-1905 or [staladies@hotmail.com](mailto:staladies@hotmail.com).



***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [p-](#). 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, [p-](#) 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.