



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 locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers during the latter part of April 1964:

- State police conducted **gambling raids** and made arrests at two area clubs and a private business. The States confiscated a fish bowl at the Downingtown Moose Lodge, seized two pinball machines at the VFW Post, and found a pinball machine at a gas station in Guthriesville.
- The **Pickering-Brandywine Jointure School Board** raised the starting salaries for new teachers from \$4,500 to \$4,800, to remain competitive with neighboring school districts. And these Brandywine-Wallace students were selected to participate in the Chester County Music

Festival: Doug Trumbauer, Loretta Moore, Ruth Ann Givler, Diane Downing, Carl Koppenhaver, Steve Feters and Terry Merkle.

- Members of the **West Bradford Fire Co.** participated in a training course, which was a supplement to their training at the Chester County Fire School. Charles Maxwell, a member of the fire company and an associate at the Fire School, directed the training sessions.

- Elma Miller, social studies teacher at the high school, received the **DHS Alumni Association's** Distinguished Service Award for being the Association's financial secretary for many years. Also honored at the Association's 77th annual banquet were Janine Davis and Richard DiEugenio, who were named the Outstanding Seniors in the DHS Class of 1964. Besides Miller, other Alumni Association officers were: Joseph Travaglini, president; George Dowlin, first vice president; James Burns, second vice president; and Eloise Sigle, recording secretary.

- The Washington Camp in Downingtown of the **Patriotic Order Sons of America** was celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1888. And members who were honored for their 50 years of service with the Washington Camp included Harvey Happersett, George Perry, Clarence Happersett, Wilmer Johnson, and George Mercer.

- The class which was received into the membership of **Hopewell Methodist Church** in East Brandywine included: Edward Fryberger, John Cropper, Roger Nellius, Bruce Welsh, Stephen and Anne Lucas, Stephen Miller, Kathy Yost, Lynn Bower, Candy Harrison and Dennis Newlin.

- The **Glen Moore Fire Co.** was conducting a "Mile of Dollars" fundraising campaign. The campaign's \$10,560 target was to be used to make the final payment on new apparatus.

- Second graders at **East Ward School** who participated in a February assembly included: Donna Marcocci, Melanie Pegan, Patty Grubb, Larry Blevins, and Roslyn Maholland. Elmer Dunn and Kay McLucas, who all described their illustrations of events in Abraham Lincoln's life. And those who danced a minuet for George Washington's birthday were James Linderman, Teddy Simmons, David Eshleman, John Bowman, Michael Bare, Marcy Hessinger, Nancy Mullen, Jeanette Stern, Linda Tolan and Betsy Smith.

- Members of the **DHS girls' varsity basketball team** who received letters from Coach Thelma Heller included Janine Davis, Linda Davis, Cindy Dellet, Jan Fetherolf, Susie Martin, Shirley Smith, Brenda Wilkerson, and Elizabeth Von Hacht. And jayvees who received letters from Coach Edith Hille were Deborah Dunn, Kathryn Reichard, Joanne Katherman, Janet Rissell, Diane Wilkerson, Martha and Miriam Alexander and Carol Patrizio. Managers receiving awards were Donna Rissel, Sharon Fennelly, Judy Brown, Vicki Thomson and Cindy Bowe.

- DHS pupils who had featured roles in the student production of "**A Year and a Dame**" were James Helms, Marlene Harple, David Fennelly and Isabelle Scarborough. Their understudies were Kenneth Matthews, Mary Ellen Crosby and Wayne Hurtt.

- Juniors inducted into the **National Honor Society** at DHS included Linda McCombs, Margaret Woodland, Donna Hilton, Carol French, Martha Menas, James Sanders, Robin Mattison, Paul Bien, Edwin Conner, Cindy Dellett, Linda Pyle and Cheryl Krapf.

- Members of **Cadette Girl Scout Troop 252**, who completed a babysitters training course, were Ann Barron, Katie Hallman, Joan DiEnna, Cheryl Miller, Chris Shreier, Nancy Sload, Beverly Whitson, Susan Seel, Karen Souder, Polly and Linda Quigley, Noreen Mahoney, and Liz and Barbara McIlvaine.

It's on South Village Ave. in Lionville



Ted Fleck, who used to write for the *East Branch Citizen* before he started teaching at Garnet Valley High School, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above. Built in 1815, the house is located at 34 South Village Ave. in Lionville. Ted knew that because his aunt and uncle, Nancy and Jack Fleck, used to live there.

Making History Today:

Marsh Creek robotics students win national award

Team 80J Cannonball of the Vexmen, comprised of students from the Marsh Creek Sixth grade Center, won the Think Award at the 2016 CREATE U.S. Open, held on April 9 at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The team was comprised of Irene Abraham, Divyesh Gabbireddy, Maria Thomas, Manuel Thomas and Aerin Yoder.

Team 80J Cannonball performed extremely well overall placing seventh out of 89 teams in the qualifying rounds and seventh in autonomous robot skills against middle schools from more than 20 states. The “Think Award” is presented to a team that has successfully utilized autonomous programming modes during competition. Quality, consistency and success of autonomous programs, as well as the ability of the students to explain the programming process,

help to determine the winner of the award. Cannonball was honored by receiving one of only four judged awards at the middle school level.

The Downingtown based Vexmen teams compete in the Vex Robotics Competition, which is largest and fastest growing robotics competition in the world, with over 12,000 teams competing in 33 countries. The top teams are invited to the U.S. Open through special qualifications at local events. This is the first year that the Vexmen have won an award at the U.S. Open.

The Vexman is a Vex Robotics Competition team and part of the Brandywine Robotics group, a non-profit organization. The team includes 23 high school and middle school teams, comprising 120 students and 40 parent mentors.

Brandywine Robotics also supports FLL (First Lego League) teams that compete regionally and nationally. The organization consists of students mainly from the Downingtown Area School District, which participates in Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

Local news in the spring of 1955

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in the spring of 1955:

- **Youth Day** began in Downingtown with a parade which featured three bands and 26 floats. Then the following DHS students assumed local government positions for the day: Ronald Jefferies, burgess; Roxanne Gibson, Joyce Lewis, Grant Amway, Norris Miller, Louise DiPietro and Gail Lammey, borough council; Richard Short, borough manager; William Wisler, supervising principal (superintendent of schools); Valdis Ivanson, DHS principal; George Buller, elementary principal; Jack Moore, Kenneth Johnson, Betty Henderson, Barbara Ford and Janet Fazzini, school directors.

- Officers of the **East Brandywine PTA** were Mrs. Charles Newlin, president; Mrs. Earl Ames, vice president; Mrs., John Piersol, recording secretary; Mrs. Joseph Inslee, corresponding secretary; and Jay Lammey, treasurer.

- Downingtown realtor Everett Hoopes announced plans to **build 300 houses** in a tract, which would increase the number of homes in the borough by 30 percent. The development's plans included 25 acres in the northeast section of the borough and on the adjoining 155 acres in East Caln Township. Hoopes wanted the borough to annex the East Caln section of the plan.

- The Downingtown **A & P Store**, at 28 W. Lancaster Ave. (where the Police Station is now located) was selling canned hams for \$1.14 per pound.

- Honor roll students at **Lionville Elementary School** included Margaret Corey, Janet Windle, Matthew Stiffney, Joanna Pope, Robert Ruark, Linda Poole and Barbara Stimson.

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'd like to receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Vintage Ad of the Week:



Even in his sleep he likes to look at
-the FURNITURE DISPLAY at
MURPHY'S
"BETTER FURNITURE" IN DOWNINGTOW

This ad appeared in the April 21, 1948 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

Congratulations Nancy!



Nancy Thompson of East Brandywine was honored at a recent surprise party given by Girl Scout leaders from the Downingtown Service District for her 50 years of volunteer service. That service began in 1966 when she took on a leadership position with a daughter's troop.

In addition to serving on numerous Girl Scout Council and District committees, and heading many projects over those 50 years, her leadership activities have included: developing an annual maple sugar program which continues to draw nearly 300 participants, and as a tree identification trainer.

In recognition of her efforts, Nancy had received many honors, including the Legion of Honor, Outstanding Leader, Lights of Loyalty and Volunteer of Excellence Awards.

In her honor, the Nancy Thompson Award will be given annually to Downingtown District Girl Scouts at each level of the organization for those who have been outstanding in at least one of the following activities: community service, Girl Scout tradition, local history, and trees and streams. Nancy also has been a longtime volunteer at the Downingtown Area Historical Society, where she participates in our monthly Clip and Paste sessions on the first Sunday of each month.

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 and Dennis Walton.

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.

- Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High sports teams or marching bands, and those worn by members of local fire departments in parades.
- 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

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lectures at 3:30 PM on the Sundays noted: **May 15**, Mathew Kalos will discuss what he's uncovered in his archaeological digs in Chester County, at the East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville.

USO Dance

The Downingtown Historic Commission is sponsoring a World War II-style USO dance at 5 PM Saturday, April 23 at Kerr Park. Music will be provided by DJ Paul. No rain date. If possible, come in 1940s or 1950s attire. Tickets—\$5 a person and \$8 a couple—are available at Margo's Ice Cream Parlor, The Orangery Restaurant, or at Downingtown's Borough Hall. Proceeds will be used for the construction and placement of the Civil War cannon at the Downingtown Veterans' Memorial in Kerr Park.

Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade Committee will have a Kentucky Derby Nite at The Races at 6 PM on Saturday, May 7 at St. Anthony's Lodge on Church Street, Downingtown. Visit dtwonchristmas.com for tickets and more information. Tickets are \$25 per person and include "food and beer" and soda. There also will be raffles, 50/50, Lady with the Best Bonnet, Best Dressed Couple, and Gentleman with fanciest bowtie contests. Adults only. Must be 21 to attend.

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 30. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via www.alertgolfouting.org/.

Muzzy Run

The 10th annual Muzzy Run will be conducted Saturday morning, May 7 on the Struble Trail in Downingtown. Registration opens at 7 AM. The events will include the races: a 5K run, at 8 AM; a Kids' Fun Run at 9 AM; and a Fun Walk at 9:15 AM. Proceeds go to the Terry Muzzy Foundation. For more details, see: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/MuzzyRun>.

East Brandywine Golf Outing

The 5th annual East Brandywine Fire & Police Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 9. Sponsored by and held at Applecross Country Club. There are still available opportunities for sponsors. There also will be an auction and raffle opportunities. Additional information can be found at: www.ebfc49.org.

Flea Market/Craft & Antique Sale

Table space is available for a flea market/craft/antique sale from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 14 (rain date May 21) to be held on the front lawn of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. Call Joan at 610-384-9496 or Lois at 610-384-8153 for more information.

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.