



## 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).

### **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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html)

## What local people were talking about in early July 1964

Noted below are news items first published in local papers 52 years ago:

- **Downingtown Borough Council** turned down a request to re-zone an 8-acre tract, bordering Routes 30 and 113, so a 252-apartment complex could be built there.
- More than 75 residents of **West Pikeland Township** came to a supervisors' meeting to voice their opposition to a proposed zoning amendment, which would allow a nursing and convalescent home to be built on a 97-acre tract at Route 113 and Clover Mill Road.
- **Wallace Township** residents were encouraged to hear what its planning commission had done to prepare for the impact of the development of **Marsh Creek State Park**. "We want to protect our residents against improper use and exploitation of our land and preserve the present character of the area as much as possible," said Norman Piersol, chairman of the planning commission.
- Teachers in the **Pickering-Brandywine Joint School District** who attended a reading course at Shippensburg State College were Mary Bennetch, Miriam Bond, Hannah Harper, Freda Johnson, Margaret McClintock and Rebecca Bray.
- Members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** elected these officers: Earl Radcliffe, president; Steve MacNeill, first vice president; William Balderston, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; and Lloyd Swarner, treasurer.
- Officers elected to lead the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown included Barbara Lee, argue; Loretta Beebe, sentinel; Blanche Summers, guide; Betty Long, assistant guide; Katherine Lammey, recorder; Eva Marsh, treasurer; Winnie Hallman, junior regent; Jenny Levensgood, chaplain; Catherine Tucker, senior regent; and Alice Zittle, junior regent.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 29**, Lionville who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included Gary Morinelli, Andy Parsons, Tom Shreiner, James Young, Steve Behrnt, Gary Cross, Dale Coover, James Roan, Robert Baker, Tim Hertzler, Paul Draper and Raymond Worthington.
- Cadettes in **Girl Scout Troop 67**, Lionville, who earned badges in a Court of Honor, were Helen Bittmann, Jill Corneal, Carol Fowler, Cheryl Hartman, Rosalie Herion, Joyce Mull, Linda Peterson, Patricia Morinelli, Susan Murray, Toni Rossi, Heather Smith, Nancy Sommer, Darlene Windle and Donna Zeltwanger.
- **Downingtown Little League** players who were named to the all-star team included Don Wood, Bill Bricker, Dom Mascherino, Joe Seeds, Joe Petrella, Dan Massimini, Bob Ifert, Jack Hough, Ed Thomas, Rob Whiteman, Gerry Menna, Jack Leonard and Larry Patrizio. And members of the **Downingtown Babe Ruth League** all-star team were Wayne Boggs, Phil Barlow, Mike Bruno, Doug Gindin, George Hilton, Bill Kline, Jim Klunk, Wayne Kofke, Jim and Steve Long, Preston Mercer, Tom Nurthern, Dan Phipps, Dave Robbins and Laverne Thomas.
- The cornerstone for a \$70,000 education building was laid at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glen Moore, as part of the church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The church had been known as the West Nantmeal Presbyterian Church in 1839, when it was organized by Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian, the mother church. Members of the anniversary and cornerstone committee were Kenneth Comstock, Mrs. Raymond Beiler, Mrs. Harold Hannum, Margaret Howson, Mrs. Walter Ford, Mrs. Thomas Zuber and Rev. Leonard Bjorkman.

## It was Greenleaf's Pharmacy on West Lancaster Avenue



Tim Plank, who grew up in Downingtown and now lives in Dallas, TX, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people to correctly identify the site in the photo above as Greenleaf's Drug Store, across from the railroad station, at 207 West Lancaster Avenue in the borough. Initially established at that address by Capt. George C. Eicholtz in 1859, the drug store was sold to Howard Sides in 1878. In 1929, Sides sold the pharmacy to Raymond Greenleaf, who operated the business until 1964. Greenleaf's was reputed to be the only pharmacy in Pennsylvania that had a "night bell" outside the store so patrons, in need having a prescription filled in the middle of the night, by rousing the pharmacist in his quarters above the store.

**Many subscribers were unable to access last week's Hist-O-Gram. We apologize. You still can access the August 11 Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:**

**[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)**

**Also, you can always find the latest Hist-O-Gram on the home page of our website:**

## What was happening in the Downingtown area 67 years ago

Noted below are news items published in local papers in the early January 1949:

- There were 1,152 students enrolled in the **Downingtown school system**, and more than 300 of them lived in 18 municipalities outside the borough.
- The **Downingtown Fire Department** responded to 60 calls in 1928; 31 of them were outside the borough.
- Elected to the **Downingtown Library's** board of directors were Dr. Thomas Parke, Theodore Griffith, William MacFarlan, Dr. Joseph Huggins, Mrs. Gibson McIlvain, Anna Miller and Mrs. George Fisher.
- New officers of the **Downingtown Young Men's Association** were Allen Hughes, president; John Johnson, vice president; Francis Summers, secretary; and Morris Stevens, treasurer. Future plans included the association's members playing basketball games against a team comprised of Philadelphia Eagles and a squad of Major League baseball players who lived in the Philadelphia area.
- The **Downingtown Sportsmen Club** was seeking youths to help trap rabbits in the borough. The rabbits were to be released in open areas.
- **James Hurtt**, a former borough police officer who now operated the Cottage restaurant at 101 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was appointed as the constable for the East Ward. Hurtt replaced **Ches Glisson**, former borough police chief, who resigned when he took over the former Sheehy's restaurant on East Lancaster Ave.
- Elected as officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were George Taylor, master; Fred Fisher, overseer; DeWitt Pyle, lecturer; Edwin Smedley, steward; Howard Pyle, assistant steward; Mrs. Warren Moore, chaplain; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Charles Long, gatekeeper.
- **Marshallton School** students, who attended the State Farm Show included Dale Ellingsworth, Harold Trimble, John Everett, Miriam and Russell Ramsay, Joan Romig, Carol Ann Stouff, and Larry, David and Thomas Hoffman.
- Sunday School students at **Glen Moore Methodist Church**, who received perfect attendance awards, were Douglas and Jack Matlack; Richard and Joseph Mason; Thomas Miller, Dorothy, Betty and Delores Simmers, David Grimes, Virginia Burgess, Grier Miller; Billy Houck; Denise Ayers; and Harry Muller.
- The **Downingtown and Chester Valley Community Chest** elected the following officers: Jack Brownstein, president; Richard Warren, first vice president; William Cadbury, second vice president; C.O. Brown, third vice president; Mrs. Gibson McIlvain secretary; and Vinton Smedley, treasurer. Gordon Carpenter and A. J. Ostheimer were appointed directors, and Mrs. John Fisher was named executive secretary.
- The **Downingtown Christmas Committee** reported that over 100 needy children received toys, clothing and candy, and 37 families were given baskets filled with food for a traditional Christmas dinner.
- Mrs. Paul Dowlin, chairman of the **DHS Music Parents** group, said her committee included Mrs. Stanley Fredericks, Mrs. H.C. Kriebel, Mrs. Benjamin Summers, Mrs. Elmer Schrupf, Mrs. James Stauffer, Mrs. Gordon Thomas, Mrs. Leo Hogg, Mrs. Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, Mrs. Russell Davis and Mrs. Paul Detterline.



- New officers of the Chester Springs Camp **Patriotic Sons of America** were William Thompson, president; Frank Cole, vice president; John Ballentine, master of forms; Howard Vail, conductor; Frank McBride, inspector; Raymond McBride, recording secretary; Elmer Holman, guard; Harold Hallman, treasurer and Hibberd Wells, trustee.

- Elected as officers of the Women's Missionary Society at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. Elmer Ruth, president; Edith Cornwall, vice president; Isabel Acker, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Phipps, treasurer; and Annie Smedley, assistant treasurer.

### **Group Photo of the Week**



Members of the Future Homemakers of America organization at DHS in 1949 were, left to right: First row, Eleanor Matlack, Freda Seeds, Susanne Popjoy, Mary Trego, Betty Simmers, Christine Shaeffer; second row, Mary Henley, Virginia Popjoy, Martha Matthews, Dorothy Ingram, Joan Sheehan, Mary Smedley, Mazie Smedley; back row, Lois Strouse, Viola Patterson, Alice Trego, Anna Lammey, teacher-advisor Evelyn Thompson, Josephine Rimel, Faye Baldwin.

### **See you on Saturday at East Brandywine's Community Day**

The Historical Society will have a space from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, August 20 at East Brandywine Township's Community Park. Marion Piccolomini, the Historical Society's secretary, will be there from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, to sign copies of her new book "World War II and Chester County," which reveals what life was like in Chester County during World War II. We'll also be selling copies of "Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations, Philadelphia to Harrisburg," which was authored by Jim Sundman, of Downingtown and a member of the Historical Society.

Vintage Ad of the Week

# **Opportunity Sale**

## **Rotarex Electric Washer**

**Regular  
Price  
\$115.00**



**SAVE  
\$15.00**

***The first 3 Washers sold during  
this Sale will go for***

***\$100.00***

**ASK FOR DEMONSTRATION**

**Rotamo Electric Shop**

**Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad first appeared in the April 6, 1929 edition of The Downingtown Archive.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Downingtown Library Programs***

Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include “Welcome to Kindergarten” at 10 AM on Monday, August 22. It will feature stories and crafts for kids entering kindergarten this fall. And from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10, kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles on “Touch a Truck Day.” For more info on all the Library’s programs, check out: [www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs).

### ***Run For Parks***

To register for the Run for the Parks, presented by Hopewell Road Pharmacy, to be held at 9 AM on Saturday, August 20, starting at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include a 5K run, a 3K walk, and a 1K kids’ run. Entry fee for the Run/Walk is \$25. For more details, see: [www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=574](http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=574). <http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575>

### ***Community Day & Fireworks***

East Brandywine Township’s Community Day will be held from 11-3 on Saturday, August 20, at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include: Shriners clowns, Speed Stack competition, fire company rescue demonstrations, hat rides, martial arts, pony rides, tennis and a car show. Rain date is Sunday, August 21. Festivities at the park end with the East Brandywine Fire Company’s fireworks, beginning at 7 PM with a fireworks show after dark. Donations and sales benefit the East Brandywine Fire Co. For more details on Community Day, see: [www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=414](http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=414), and for details on the fireworks, see: [www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575](http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575).

### ***Expo at VA***

Coatesville Veterans Resource Expo will be held Friday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Great Hall (Building 5), 1400 Blackhorse Hill Road, Coatesville. Dozens of community, government and military organizations can assist you in the areas of housing, basic needs, health, finance/benefits or training, employment, education and more.

### ***Boys of the Civil War***

Joel A. Moore, former educator, historian, and author, will talk about boys as young as 10 years of age who fought in the American Civil War at the West Historical Society’s meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome, with no charge.

### ***Artists & Crafters Wanted***

The Downingtown Historic Commission will hold its annual Log House Art & Craft Show, 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, September 17 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Vendors may rent a space for \$25. Deadline to register is September 9. Details can be found at the Borough of Downingtown’s website: [www.downingtown.org](http://www.downingtown.org).

### ***Car & Cycle Show***

The Minquas Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary will have its seventh annual Car and Cycle Show at Kerr Park, 11 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, August 20.

### ***Blood Drive***

Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Thursday, September 1 at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up, access: [www.downingtown.org](http://www.downingtown.org).

### ***Class Reunion***

DHS Class of 1986 will have its 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion, from 6-10 PM on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Brickside Grille, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. For more info, email [dhs86reunion@gmail.com](mailto:dhs86reunion@gmail.com) or see our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/113326642077578/> (DHS Class of 1986).

### ***Trimbleville Historical Marker***

Friends of Martin's Tavern invites everyone to join them in the unveiling of the Trimbleville historical marker at 311 Broad Run Road, West Bradford. The marker commemorates the role the hamlet of Trimbleville played in the Revolutionary War, and in the cultural heritage of colonial America. The program & dedication will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, September 11.

### ***Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

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

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).