



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

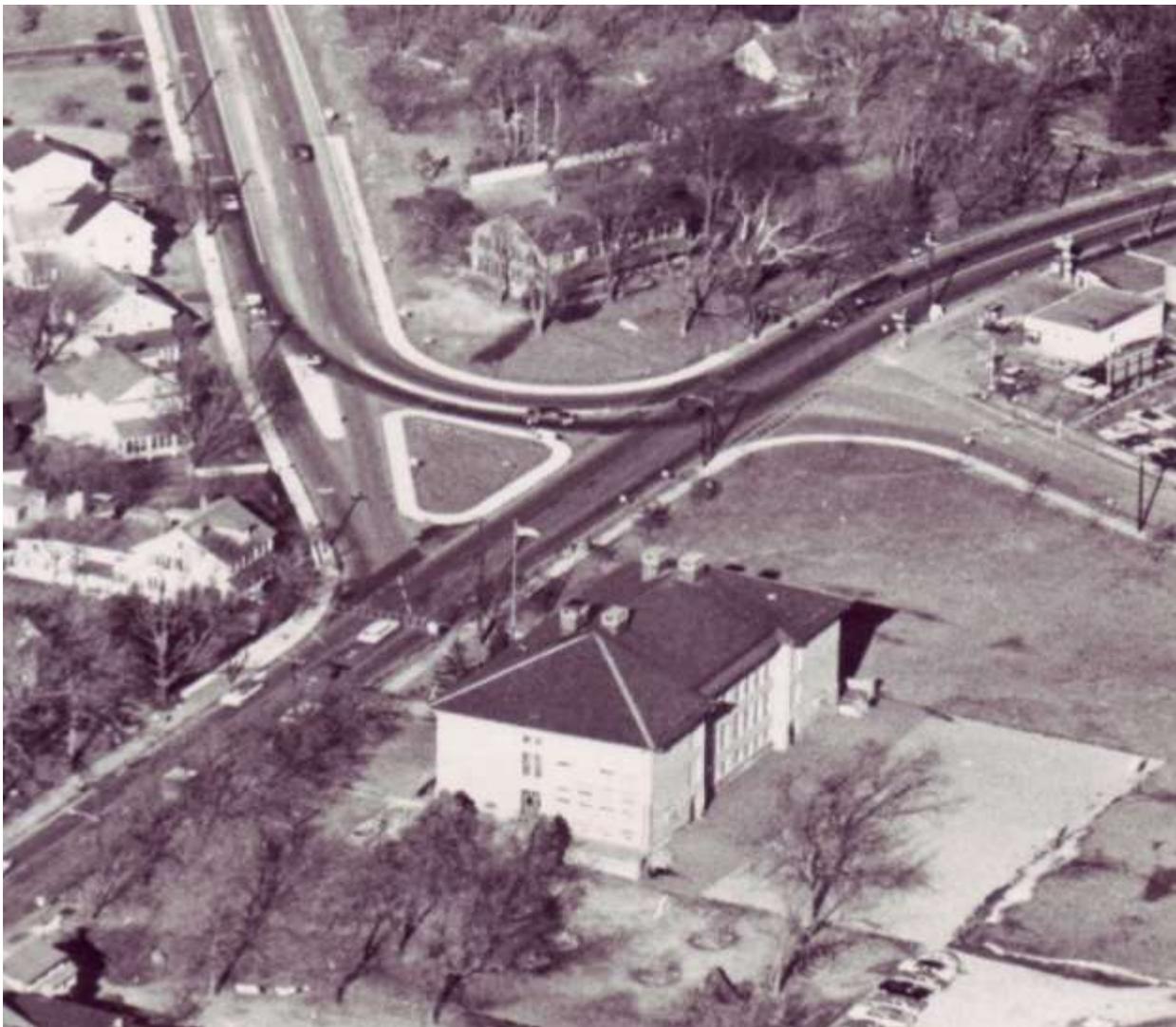
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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 people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in local papers in the latter part of July 1964:

- **Mayor Creston Shoemaker** told members of the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce that a small hospital in the borough was needed to handle industrial emergencies and on weekends when both of the doctors in the borough were on vacation.

- A meeting was held at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown, to introduce youngsters and their parents to the Bert Bell Memorial Football League. Two teams from Downingtown—a 90-pound squad with a 9-12 year age limit and a 110-pound team with a 10-13 year age limit—were entered into the league. The league already included teams from Strafford, Paoli, Whitemarsh, Rose Tree and Narbeth. (*Editor's Note: Obviously this was beginning of the successful Downingtown Young Whippets program.*)

- Residents of **West Pikeland Township** were encouraged to sign a petition that urged the repeal of Act 299, the state law requiring the consolidation of school districts into jointures. And regarding an attempt to amend the zoning code so a nursing and convalescent home could be built in the township, one resident said, "Chester Springs is an oasis in the commercial crass of society. I moved here to get away from industry and commercial business. It may seem like snobbery, but in our society today, there has to be exceptions, especially since we are near the third largest city in the United States. This is a place we discovered as an oasis and we want to keep it that way." There was a murmur of assent from many others in the audience.

- Officers elected to lead the Junior Christian Endeavor group at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan, were David Gottier, president; Chip Oatman, vice president; Susan Stephenson, secretary; Judy Dewees, treasurer; and Jimmy Peterson, song leader.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 79**, Glen Moore, who attended the huge National Jamboree at Valley Forge Park, included: Harold and Allen Earnshaw, William and David Funk, Gregg and Jeff Hannum, Raymond Chilcote, Harvey Roeder, Carl Shrader, Bobby Keen, Carl Harple, Martin Haines, Mike Messner and Kenny Terry.

- Members of **Brownie Troop 69**, East Brandywine, who flew up to **Girl Scout Troop 172** included Connie Matthews, Joan Layne, Robin Radcliff, Paula Raysor, Barbara Miller, Cherylen Nellius, Linda Stillwell, Patsy Baldwin, Sandy Fry, Anne Johnson, Sue Nailor, Debbie Mertz, Cindy Baker and Melinda King.

- Elected as officers of the Methodist Youth Fellowship group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Gina Myers, president; William Barlow, vice president; Barbara Curry, secretary; Jeffrey Swisher, treasurer; Philip Barlow, outreach chairman; Larry Showalter, fellowship chairman; and Thomas Adkins, membership chairman.

- A total of 530 youngsters were involved in the Downingtown Recreation Summer Program. Winners in the hat show at *Beaver Creek playground* were Karen Protivnak, prettiest; Patty Davis and Brenda Murphy, most original; Kenny Rodeback and Grace DiBerardinis, smallest; Eddie Weir and Diane Peterman, most colorful. And Ann Story, Beverly Reutter, Lamonte Wilkerson and Mike Story won the peanut scramble at **East Ward playground**.

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.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

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission, pictured in front of the Log House in 1976, were, left to right: Gladys Brookover, James McGowan, Norman Pannebaker, Emily Lewis, Dick Radcliff, Enid Brown and Charles Hayes.

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.

Vintage Ad of the Week

LUDWIG'S CORNER INN
Southwest Corner Routes 100 and 401
DINNER SERVED DAILY
LUNCHEON BY RESERVATION
ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR
PRIVATE PARTIES
CLOSED MONDAY
UNDER MANAGEMENT OF
McILVAINE'S LITTLE HOUSE
PHONE EAGLE 15-R-11

This ad first appeared in the January 15, 1949 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

It was the groundbreaking for St. Joseph's School



Mike Lyons is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the 1954 groundbreaking for St. Joseph's Catholic School at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Manor Avenues in the borough. Mike was in the second class to start at the school, and he graduated from there in 1963. The fronts of the houses in the photo's background were located on Downing Avenue. The building site had been home of the Downingtown Little League for several years; the league's baseball diamond was moved further up Manor Avenue, where it's still used by the Little League today.

What was happening here in late January 1949

Noted below are news items published in local papers 67 years ago:

- **Pepperidge Farms**, of Norwalk, CT, "large wholesale distributors for health bread," leased 30,000 square feet of the Acorn Building on Chestnut Street in the borough. Equipment for the operation was being shipped to Downingtown, and Pepperidge officials hoped that the plant would be running by June 1. Ultimately, it would have a three-shift baking operation, involving between 200 and 400 employees.
- Eugenia Carter and Lillian Hammond, eighth graders who lived in Marshallton, travelled to Washington, DC, to witness the **inauguration of President Harry Truman**, while several of their classmates went to JoAnne LeFevre's house to watch the inaugural ceremonies on TV.
- Chosen as leaders of **St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church**, Lionville, were: Arlene Davis, organist; Mrs. George Graham, assistant organist and publicity chairman; Anna Dewees, treasurer; William Whitely, church secretary; Heber Wilson, elder; William Peterman, deacon; and Emmet Gordon, trustee.
- Members of the **Future Homemakers of America at DHS** from Lionville, who won prizes at the State Farm Show in Harrisburg included Caroline Matthews, for her sponge cake

and her butter cake; and Mary and Mazie Smedley, for their entries in the canned goods competition.

- Downingtown optometrist **Dr. Horace Tracton** offered to examine the eyes of students in the Downingtown School District without charge, when he spoke to the Mothers Club of the West Ward School.

- Ralph Wilson and Donald Mitchell were asked by the **Marshallton School PTA** to draw up a petition, which was to be presented to State Representative Amos Leisey, requesting that School Bus bill be amended. The amendment would have required school bus drivers to exit the bus and personally ensure the children's safety when the kids had to cross a road. Leisey's original bill only required vehicles travelling in all directions to stop and remain at least 10 feet away from the bus while student-passengers safely get on and off a school bus.

- Despite a valiant effort in the fourth quarter, the **DHS boys' basketball team** lost a 54-53 heartbreaker to West Chester. The Warriors were leading 40-31 at the end of the third quarter, when Sonny Milano and Ron Hogg paced a sensational 22-14 comeback in the final frame. Hogg (11 points), Milano (12), Bill Hayes (11) and Joe Sciarretta (10) led the Whippet offense.

- The Mothers Club of **East Ward School**, Downingtown, agreed to raise funds for new playground equipment. Fifth graders Virginia Law, Carol Lee Bruton and Marcia Ann Chambers played piano selections at the club's meeting.

- Officers of the choir at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, were Parke Moore, president; Weldin Bicking, vice president; Mrs. Morris Jackson, secretary; and Marjorie Windle, treasurer.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Summer Jam

Downingtown's next Summer Jam Session, brought to you by the Downingtown Main Street Association and Kimberton Whole Foods will be held from 6-10 PM at Friday, August 26 in the Concert Gazebo at Kerr Park. I will include live music, food, local crafts and more!

Clam Bake

Lionville Fire Co. will have annual Clam Bake from 1 -7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 4. Tickets are: \$40 for 3 Dozen clams; all you can eat corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, Fred's homemade clam chowder; drinks, including beer. \$20 kids' (3-12) tickets do not include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament. For details, see:

www.lionvillefire.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=437.

Barley Sheaf Players

The Barley Sheaf Players, a community theatre at 810 North Whitford Road in Lionville, will present "Hay-Fever," where four unsuspecting guests of the Bliss family discover that a weekend in the idyllic English countryside can be anything but blissful. This witty comedy of manners becomes a hilarious, roaring 20s farce. Ticket Prices: adults, \$17; students (18 and under) and seniors (60 and over), \$13 Call 610-363-7075 to reserve seats. For more details, check out: www.barleysheaf.org/Show.aspx/99/Hay-Fever.

Teri's Run

The 15th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk for Scleroderma will be held at 7 PM on Friday, September 9 in Downingtown. Teri's Run is dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. Details and online registration are available via: www.terisrun.org.

Downingtown Library Programs

Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include: On “Touch a Truck Day,” kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10. For more info on all the Library’s programs, check out: www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs.

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 Caln 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.

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.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowningtown.com
For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or email goo1966@verizon.net, or call 610-745-0864.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1986 will have its 30th Reunion, from 6-10 PM on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Brickside Grille, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. For more info, email 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. 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.