



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of August 1980:

- Preliminary figures released by the federal Census Bureau show that the **population of the Downingtown Area School District** had risen from 24,140 in 1970 to 34,661 in 1980, adding up to a growth of 69.7 percent. West Bradford Township had the sharpest increase, up 139 percent, to 7,160. Other municipalities in the school district that had grown at least 50 percent since 1970 were: East Brandywine, up 63.7 percent, to 4,487; Upper Uwchlan, up 74.3 percent, to 1,736; and Uwchlan, up 51.9 percent, to 8,315.

- New classrooms being added to **West Bradford** and **Pickering Valley Elementary Schools** were expected to be completed in time for the opening of a new school year. Renovations and construction of eight classrooms, a library and a gymnasium at **Brandywine-Wallace School** were slated to be completed in September 1981.

- For three months, **Jack Hines**, West Bradford's township manager, had been keeping an eye on truck traffic every morning in the Romansville section of the township. That effort paid off, when District Justice C. Burtis Coxe, Downingtown, ordered Strasburg Associates to pay \$29,750 in total fines, plus \$1,024 in court costs, because the trucks had been using roads in the Romansville area to haul waste to the Strasburg Landfill. Based on information provided by Hines, the landfill's operators were found guilty on 64 counts of violating West Bradford's zoning ordinance.

- Recent changes among **West Pikeland Township's** supervisors: Alfred Brady replaced Tom Ashton, who resigned. Also, George Irwin, former vice chairman, was named chairman, while former chairman Andrew McCreight was appointed vice chairman.

- Vandals apparently hot-wired a 1980 Chevrolet, normally used in **driver education classes at DHS**, and used it as a "battering ram" to cause about \$5,000 worth of damage to eight other school district vehicles in the high school parking lot. The driver-ed car, worth \$8,000, was totally destroyed, according to borough police.

- Playground news: The team of Shannon and Dana Kohler, Vicky Neufeld, David Englebert, Sandy McClung and Jennifer Posegate defeated all comers in the dodge ball competition at **Wagenseller Park** in Glenmoore. Winners in the Olympics for first, second and third graders at **Lionville Playground** included Cory Berg, Jon Lefko, Steve Snodgrass, Hawley Chester and Curt Haines.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included Sean Barshay, Bill Buttner, Ron Chiesa, Brian Conte, Dan Cook, Brian Flaherty, Mike and Tom Gaffney, Ken Klunk, Chris Kremer, Leith McCann, Steve Musgrove, John Pfeiffer, John and Tim Sanner, Greg Sleeman and Bill Supplee.

- The **Downingtown Senior Center** now has a game room in its quarters in the basement of Downingtown United Methodist Church. The room will have a pool table, table tennis, darts, a stereo and shuffleboard.

- Pennypacker Country Club's Charlie Messa and Chris McShane of St. Anthony's were named the outstanding male and female swimmers, respectively, when they set individual **Brandywine Swim League records**, in the league's championships.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8** earned 55 merit badges and partial badges, while attending Camp Horseshoe for one week. The troop's adult leaders were Bob Ackroyd, Leon Borst, Jim Flanagan and Tim Wrightstone.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 423 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$47,900; 389 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$100,406; 1411 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$70,151; 511 Lincoln Ave., Downingtown, \$40,000; 11 Davis Road, West Pikeland, \$81,000; 29 Cambridge Court, East Brandywine, \$46,750.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8** earned 55 merit badges and partial badges, while attending Camp Horseshoe for one week. The troop's adult leaders were Bob Ackroyd, Leon Borst, Jim Flanagan and Tim Wrightstone.
- Winners of the **Home Run Derby** competition at Kerr Park were Steve Shirk, 8-9-year-olds; Bruce Wemmett, 10-11-12-year olds; Jon Hayes, 13-14-15-year-olds. The competition was sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies, the Tastykake Baking Co. and the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board.
- The **Downingtown Inn Sports Palace** on Route 30, East Caln, staged another Golden Gloves amateur boxing show, which involved five bouts.

It was the Alert's Chicken Bar-B-Cue in 1975



Ellen VanLew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify what was going on in the photo above. That's Bob Stevens, Tom Lee III, Tom Lee Jr. and Bob Lee at the grill during the Alert Fire Company's Chicken Bar-B-Cue in August 1975. Looking on in the background are, left to right, Doug Rambo, Randy Holman, Ken Moore, Jeff Stevens, Steve DiLuigi and Les Sheeler.

What was happening in Downingtown 88 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from editions of *The Downingtown Archive* in November and December 1928:

- After Assistant Fire Chief J. B. Corcoran pointed out that “no fair-minded person could call the clanging of an old bell and the feeble blasts of two air whistles an alarm system,” Borough Council’s fire committee met with **Downingtown Fire Department** officials. It was agreed that phone service should be installed at both of borough’s fire houses and at Downingtown Motor Co. and at the West End Garage. The Fire Department also was directed to provide the fire committee with information on various alarm systems and their costs, so Borough Council could resolve the issue at its January meeting.
- The DHS Athletic Committee unanimously agreed to establish **field hockey** as an interscholastic sport at the high school. DHS was the only high school in Chester County that did not have a girls’ field hockey team.
- DHS’s diminutive “Pud” Ax caught a game-winning touchdown pass in the waning moments of the fourth quarter as the **football squad** pulled off a major upset by beating Coatesville 21-14. The other two DHS TDs were scored by Chick Horning and Eddie Watson.

Missed any Hist-O-Grams published in June?

You can access any issue of the Hist-O-Grams published in July by clicking on the respective coding noted below:

July 7: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%207%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 14: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2014%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 21: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2021%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 28: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2028%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

Please come to our Clip/Paste sessions

We’re looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society’s clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, June 5 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, June 14. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

News in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the Downingtown weekly newspaper in the summer of 1955:

- Ralph Lineinger was elected president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Other new officers were Robert Plank, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; Edward McCausland, treasurer; Henry Smith, sergeant-at-arms; and directors Ted Johnson, Gordon Carpenter, Everett Griffith, Larry Polite, Robert Piersol and Dr. John Phillips.
- The 123-acre **Bell School** tract in East Caln was sold by Henry Smith to Daniel and Charles Tabas, owners and operators of the Downingtown Motor Inn.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 181**, Downingtown, who visited the 30th Street Railroad Station in Philadelphia, included: Jane Moore, Jean and Carol Shisler, Patricia Daller, Patricia Dukeman, Frances Serafino, Beatrice DiFernando, Sandra Thompson and Sandra Hadfield.
- Due to some rowdy behavior, Robert Kaster, borough recreation director, said teenagers who plan to attend **dances at Kerr Park** must have ID cards.
- Charles Raysor was elected president of the **Downingtown Lions Club**. Also elected were Wallace Houston, first vice president; Mylin Plank, second vice president; Elton Weikel, third vice president; Maurie Davis, secretary; Rider Brandau, treasurer; Raymond Jones, chaplain; Hathaway Frain, tail twister; Bob Dougherty, assistant tail twister; Charles Shihadeh, lion tamer; and Ronald Brinton, assistant lion tamer.
- Members of the **Downingtown Little League's** all-star team were: Robert Poussey, John Snyder, Jack Law, Paul Miller, Anthony Antonelli, Thomas Booker, Thomas Yerkes, Robert Stringer, Kenneth Mills, Stanley Sarmento, George Pomento, Edward Klunk, David Radcliffe and George Murphy.
- Winners of the **Home Run Derby** competition at Kerr Park were Steve Shirk, 8-9-year-olds; Bruce Wemmett, 10-11-12-year olds; Jon Hayes, 13-14-15-year-olds. The competition was sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies, the Tastykake Baking Co. and the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board.

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, 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.

Vintage Ad of the Week

The New
FORD CAR
For Xmas Is Here

What Finer Gift Could You Make

Beautiful new low body lines

Choice of four colors

55 to 65 miles an hour

Remarkable Acceleration

40 horsepower engine

Four-wheel Brakes

Standard, selective gear shift

Hydraulic shock absorbers

20 to 30 miles per gallon of gasoline

Theft-proof coincidental lock

Typical FORD economy and reliability

Come In and See It Today!

*Arrange for Demonstration and
Delivery Date*

John McGowan & Son
DOWNTOWN, PA.

This ad was originally published in the December 15, 1928 edition of *The Archive*.

The Wall That Heals in East Brandywine



The Wall That Heals, a 250-foot long replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, was on display in East Brandywine Community Park for several days last week. The Wall honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The exhibit included a mobile education center that displayed photos of the 79 Chester County residents who were killed in Vietnam. The Wall project was co-sponsored by East Brandywine Township and Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Nearly 100 motorcyclists, who were military veterans, participated in an escort for the Wall between Downingtown and East Brandywine, which included a stop for a wreath laying at the Veterans Memorial in Downingtown's Kerr Park.

The 12 veterans from the Downingtown area who were killed in Vietnam, according to the Veterans Memorial in the borough, are: Edward Clarke, William Davidson, Charles Eubank, Kenneth Ivory, Walter Jankowski, John Kwortnik, Richard Myers, J. Lawrence Piersol, Tracy Riffey, James Rylee, Kenneth VanLew and Daniel Yaddock.

To be eligible to be listed on Downingtown's Veterans Memorial, veterans had to serve in the military in times of war, between World War I and the Persian Gulf War, and were a resident of one of these municipalities: Downingtown Borough, East Brandywine, East Caln, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, Wallace and West Bradford Townships.

Group Photo of the Week



Students in this kindergarten class at Beaver Creek School in 1963-64 were, left to right: first row, David Miles, Bryan Boyer, John DiSilvestro; second row, Keith Baen, Kathy Donnon, Nancy Fossett, Darlene Brown, Peter Bonaduce, Joseph Horsey, Letha Casenta, Holly Howard; third row, Tommy Fulton, Timmy Ippolito, Earl Walls, Pamela Bradley, Freddie Porrecca, David Ciarlone, Lucy Myers, Kenny Rodeback, Kim Osborne; fourth row, Perry Neudorff, Diane Piersol, Glenna Plummer, Janice Romanelli, Alan Dorman, Susan Seibert, Brenda Jo March and Miss Thorne, teacher.

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

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Bar-B-Que at the fire house, 122 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 13. You can eat-in or take-out. A complete dinner—half of a chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage—costs only \$13.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner (either "Eat-in" or "Take-out") from 4:30-6 PM on Saturday, August 13. Besides, BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), the menu will include cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610-696-5247) or office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

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.downingtowndowningtown.org.

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).

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/downingtowndowningtown-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.