



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

Vol. 7, No. 47

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What & Where 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.

More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6

What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

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

- **West Bradford Township** supervisors were considering disposing of septic tank waste (95% water, which would replenish ground water in the area) on the Highland Orchards property, if the state Department of Environmental Resources approved of the plan. Bob Hodge, owner of the orchard, said the procedure had been “an accepted practice for a long time.”

- The Downingtown School District’s **running population census** was better than the federal census, claimed Superintendent Charles Micken, because “we add good hard data every working day. We have a file card for everyone in the district.” Sources of population data included realtors, apartment house owners and operators, school registration figures, local municipalities’ housing officers, the county planning commission, the PA Economy League, plus the federal census. Downingtown school officials need constantly updated census data to project needs for staff, teachers, classrooms and equipment, noted Micken.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 43 Hunt Club Lane, West Pikeland, \$102,700; 404 Santillo Way, Uwchlan, \$81,165; 1105 Vermont Lane, West Bradford, \$48,855; 125 Governors Circle, East Brandywine, \$84,100; 164 Whiteland Hunt Road, West Whiteland, \$97,500; 211 Meadow Drive, Thorndale, \$59,500.

- The **Gold & Silver Brokerage**, 204 West Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was paying extraordinary prices for used jewelry: up to \$195 for gold class rings; up to \$125 for gold wedding bands; and up to \$700 for gold bracelets.

- DHS soccer coach **Paul Hurley** was named Ches-Mont Coach of the Year, after the Whippets finished second in the league, the team’s best performance in its six-year history. And the **DHS boys’ basketball team** beat Marple-Newtown 61-51 in the first game played in the new, 2,000-seat Wagner gymnasium, as Art Harlowe poured in 17 points. However, **DHS girls’ basketball** Coach Bob Schnure said, Unionville “totally destroyed us,” after the Whippets lost their season debut 74-13. Also, Sherri Clayton, Kelly Swartout and Danine DiBernardi were named to the **All Ches-Mont field hockey** team.

- **Christopher Coffman**, West Bradford, received a trophy from Delaware Governor Pierre DuPont for catching the largest (80 pounds, 93 inches long) white marlin in Delaware.

- DHS students Natalie Koh, Vera Kockler, Jeffrey Turner and Laura McGeorge were selected to attend the **Lukens Steel Management Conference**.

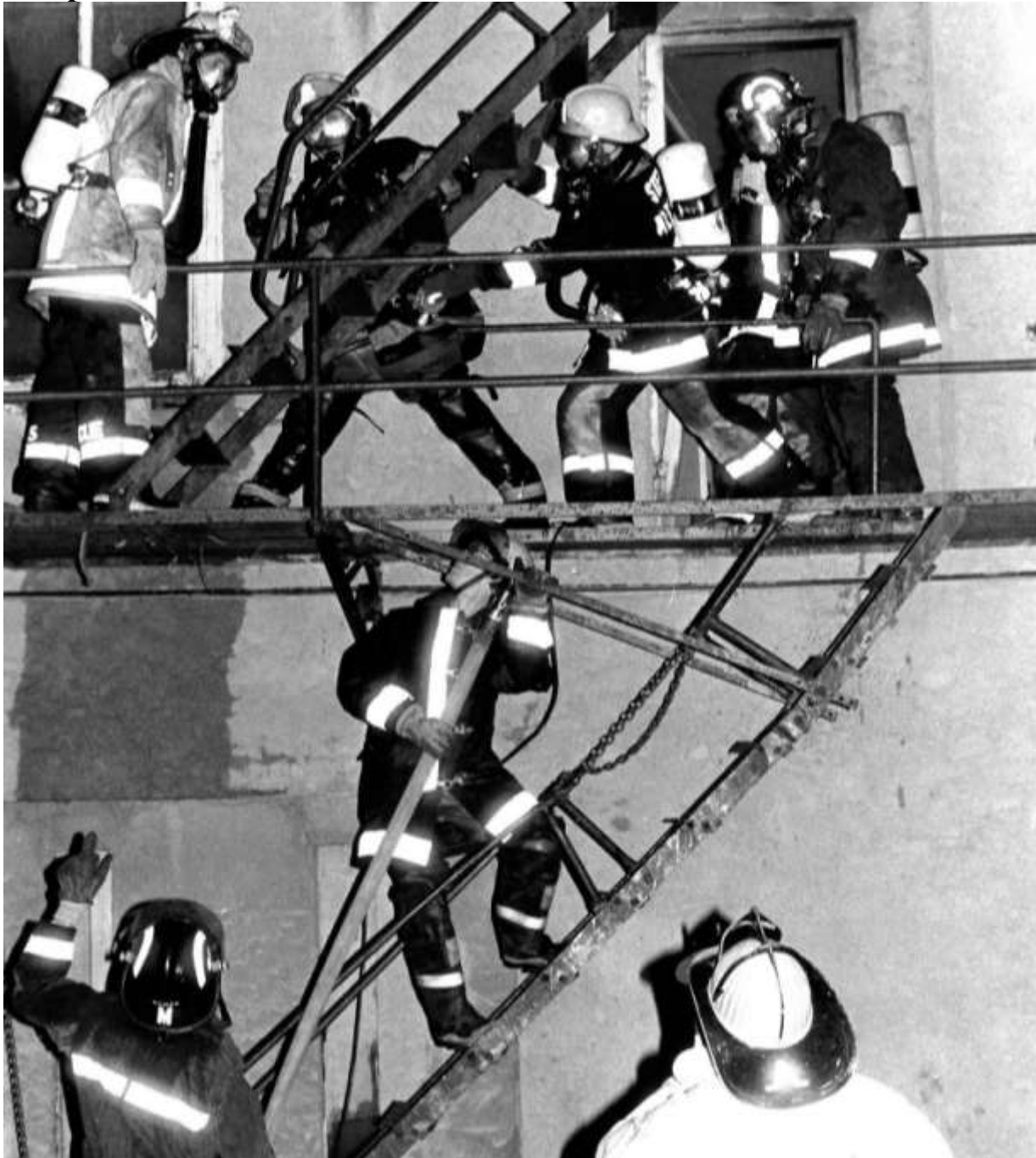
- Officers elected to lead the United Methodist Women at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Lee Bradley, president; Lois Walters, vice president; Frances McAllister, secretary; and Annetta Schollenberger, treasurer.

- Candidates for trustee at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Stanley Bowman, Mrs. Bruce Krum, Thomas Reber, Park Rissell, Peter Smith and Harold Thompson.

- Some 185 **Lionville Junior High School** students raised more than \$7,000 for the American Heart Association by participating in a Jump-Rope-A-Thon.

More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6

Group Photo of the Week



This unusual group photo, provided by Jeff Stevens of the Alert Fire Co., was taken in April 1982, when there was a devastating fire at the Pennsylvania House Apartments on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. It shows firefighters on a fire escape landing, after they exited the interior of the second floor, where the floor had begun to cave in while they were doing a search-and-rescue operation for a reported homeless person inside. However, there was no one in the building. Firefighters in the photo, beginning at the bottom and left to right, are: Dave Dymek (Minquas), Bob Stevens (Alert), Bill Hawthorne (Alert), Steve DiLuigi (Alert), John Carbo (Alert), Jeff Stevens (Alert), and Ken Leslie (Thorndale).

Historic bridge in borough to be upgraded

PennDOT representatives recently provided Downingtown Borough Council with an overview of expected renovations to the Lancaster Avenue bridge over the Brandywine, according to the *Downingtown News*, the borough's online newsletter. PennDOT project manager Michael Cutty said the bridge is in "poor" condition, but there is no need at this time for emergency repairs.

Cutty also noted that the bridge, built in 1921, is not on a historic registry of bridges or in a historic section of the borough. However, he said PennDOT recognizes the historic significance of the bridge and, will maintain the architectural design of the bridge. He anticipates a 2018 (at the earliest) start date. The new bridge will feature a 1-foot high curb with metal elements to separate the road from the sidewalk--a PennDOT requirement for all new bridges with pedestrian access. During renovations, it is expected that one lane of traffic will be allowed over the bridge. Traffic patterns will be determined at a later date.

You can subscribe to the *Downingtown News* by clicking on:

https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001SlpVeMIx34n_ZPcrGg0Iq9zh30chXuC-8_3-XDki-qUevOUnyIYXSkYIHZ2W0TnoXaunPfAt0pdtXXdXXFhgaL7sneSPfEICVaZryRloRhs-wnCd4Q1HKzr7umbJAwXSydJ3GYwOWoWU5untZEIUc6HIxYls7pGmBasynk5rXpIeH6lR0-Yli5ThnVQhcGv2

What was happening here 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in December of 1955:

- The **Whitford Post Office**, located next to Ball and Ball on Route 30, was slated to close on December 31.
- Members of the **Civic Improvement Committee** for revitalization of the borough's central business district included: George Aumiller and William Mittel, Downingtown Rotary Club; Clifford Orr, Horace Shanely and K.E. Shihadeh, Downingtown Lions Club; Joseph Miller and Roland Moore, Downingtown Chamber of Commerce; and Allan Hughes and Joseph Poltrone, Downingtown Optimist Club.
- Officers elected by members of the **Chester Valley Rebekah Lodge**, Lionville, were Rebecca Haldeman, noble grand; Irma Kochel, vice grand; Mrs. Eber Wilson, recording secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Smedley, financial secretary; and Mrs. John Trego, treasurer.
- Philomena DiBerardinis and Esther Zittle, both DHS students, won first and third prizes, respectively, in the **Voice of Democracy contest** sponsored by the Coatesville Jaycees.
- The **DHS football team** finished second in the Ches-Mont League, after it beat Pottstown 12-0 in the annual Thanksgiving Day game. The Whippets' first score came on a 41-yard pass play from quarterback John Chilla to John Bousum. Harry Watson dove into the end zone from the 2-yard line for the second TD. Bousum, Chilla and tackle James Walton were named to the All C-M first team. Watson was selected for the second team.
- C.O. Brown was elected president of the **Downingtown Businessmen's Club**. Other officers were Lee Schneider, vice president; Leland Wilson, treasurer; and William Gibbs, secretary.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT
STARTS TOMORROW
ON**

THE BEAUTIFUL "LITTLE BILL" GOLF COURSE
FRANK McGRAW, Prop.
CHURCH STREET DOWNINGTOWN, PENNA.



ENTER THIS TOURNAMENT NOW!

QUALIFYING ROUND STARTS TOMORROW

October 4th

MEN'S AND LADIES' DIVISIONS

BEAUTIFUL PRIZES FOR WINNERS

FINALS WILL BE PLAYED WEEK OF OCTOBER 13th

**COME TO THE COURSE NOW — LEARN THE PARTICULARS
WATCH THE PAPERS**

THE "LITTLE BILL" GOLF COURSE
CHURCH STREET DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

This ad was originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in October 1930.

Station Tap/Bottle Room is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Station Tap and Bottle Room are one of the nine, local eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Downingtown Country Club, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, the Thorndale Inn, the Thorndale Craft House and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

Station Tap/Bottle Room

The Station Tap, 207 West Lancaster Avenue and the adjoining Bottle Room, 209 West Lancaster Avenue are hip hangouts with a rotating tap list & extensive bottle menu along with a Sunday comfort-food brunch.

Food is served at the Station Tap from 3-11 PM, Monday through Thursday; noon until midnight on Friday and Saturday; and brunch from 11 AM until 3 PM on Sundays. Happy Hour runs from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Instead of reservations, Station Taproom is a first-come, first-served restaurant.

You'll find a wide variety of Station Tap's delicious dinner menu offerings, which include lots of local ingredients, via: www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Fall-Menu2.pdf. The restaurant also has a huge selection of craft beers on tap and superior wines and whiskeys.

To see the vast number of bottled beer available at the Bottle Room, check out: www.stationtaproom.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/bottle-list-12.12.pdf.

For more information about Station Tap's offerings: call 484.593.0560 or contact sean@stationtaproom.com.

Bigger and better

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, by splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150. Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org, or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org, or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

Mile Marker is now in front of Historical Society



Tommy Lee is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly tell us that the historic mile marker in the photo above is currently located in front of Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters on Route 30, in the front of the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center. The letters and numbers incised on the granite tombstone-shaped marker were used on the 1795 Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, the first, long-distance, toll road built in the United States. The "29 M" and the "P" chiseled into the marker show that stone was 29 miles west of the Market Street Bridge, at 30th Street in Philadelphia.

Miss a Hist-O-Gram published in November?

You can access any of the Hist-O-Grams published in November, by clicking on the coding below.

November 3—www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%203%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

November 10—www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2010%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

November 17—www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2017%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

November 24—www.downingtowntareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2024%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Luminaria candles on sale on Sundays; Clip/Paste sessions slated for Dec. 4

Those who wish to buy Luminaria candles or bases, may purchase them from 1-4 PM on Sundays, December 4 and December 11 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, where you can park.

And we're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's monthly clip/paste sessions, to be held at Ashbridge House, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 4. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection. You can park in the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant lot next door.

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, and 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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Tree Lighting

East Brandywine Township's tree lighting ceremony will be held from 3-5 PM on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the East Brandywine Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road. Lots of free ornaments for the children and adults to make and place on the tree! Homemade cookies and hot chocolate for everyone. Bring a non-perishable item or socks, hats or mittens for the Lords Pantry, and get a chance to "Throw the Switch" and light the tree. Tree lighting will take place at 4:30 PM.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus will be at the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Downingtown's Kerr Park at 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 3. For more info: dtownhistoric@gmail.com.

Christmas Program

You can welcome the Christmas season with Old Caln Historical Society's Candlelight Christmas Carol program at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 6 at the Old Caln Meetinghouse, Route 340, Thorndale. The music will be provided by the Caln School Chorus, the Belletones and Redmen from the CASH Meistersingers, and well-known local vocalist, Kevin Pierce. Everyone is welcome. There will be free light refreshments after the program. Lighted parking available. More info available via: led3216@verizon.net.

Holiday Events in W. Bradford

Holiday events on Saturday, December 3 in West Bradford include: Breakfast with Santa from 8-11 AM at the Fire house; the Friends of Martin's Tavern group's Holiday Bazaar at the Marshallton blacksmith's shop from 10 AM to 3 PM and tree lighting at 4-6 PM at Martin's Tavern.

Open House

You can see the decorated historic buildings, which will be part of the open house at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum at 50 South First Ave., Coatesville from 5-8 PM on Friday, December 9. The event will also

include the Lukens Band and a model railroad display. Visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good or a children's book.

Girls on the Run

The Greater Brandywine YMCA's Girls on the Run 5K will be held at Downingtown West High School at 9 AM on Saturday, December 3. For more details, see: www.ymcagbw.org/5k.

Tree Lighting

Downingtown's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 9, next to the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park. The event, sponsored by the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, will also include caroling by the choir from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

Christmas Parade

Downingtown's Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, December 10. Besides Santa Claus and at least marching bands, the parade will include many local groups and businesses. For more details, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

Holly & Greens Sale

The Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St., West Chester, will have its annual Greens sale, plus a bake sale, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10. In addition to greens and holly, items will include handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland. Special pricing for CCHS members, Meter parking is free on Saturday. And the Museum and Genealogy Library will have free admission on December 9 and 10, during the sale.

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 <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.