



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 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in February 1980:

- The **Downingtown Area School District's** board debated how Martin Luther King's birthday should be observed. James Watson, board representative for West Bradford, read a letter

from Rev. William Levering of the Downingtown Ministerium, which proposed that Dr. King's birthday should be a school holiday. Watson also noted that King's birthday was a holiday in the West Chester and Coatesville School Districts. However, Sam Crawford, board representative for the west end of Downingtown, suggested that the school district should observe the birthday by special programs that would make students more aware of King's philosophy and accomplishments, instead of an opportunity for students to "be out running on the street." Ultimately, the board unanimously voted to make King's birthday a school holiday.

- **Downingtown's Council** honored the 28 volunteers, who spent hundreds of hours working to complete a historic survey of some 1,000 borough properties, which was critical to many of those buildings being added to the National Register of Historic Places. Also cited were the 11 DHS students in Tom Holder's architectural drafting class, who did line drawings of the facades of some of the borough's historic structures.

- **East Brandywine** supervisors were astounded when they learned that 196 youngsters, between the ages of 7 and 12, had registered to play in the township's new baseball program.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 1209 New Hampshire Lane, West Bradford, \$47,650; 11 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$66,250; 430 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$94,809; 324 Shoen Road, West Whiteland, \$72,000; 301 Jackson Avenue, Downingtown, \$45,000; 155 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$36,900; 1801 Whitford Hills Road, East Caln, \$73,000; 109 Evergreen Drive, East Brandywine, \$86,900.

- The **Copetown Bicycle & Hobby Store** opened for business at 210 W. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.

- Sue Brody, chairman of the **Uwchlan Township Historical Commission**, said many of Lionville's first residents, in the early 18th Century, were difficult to trace because they often lived on land in the township for years, without ever staking a legal claim on the property. Brody discovered that information while preparing an application for the Lionville Historic District to be named to the National Register of Historic Places. Virtually all of the buildings in the village were built between 1820 and 1870.

- Area residents had been receiving dialysis treatments at the **Kidney Center of Chester County**, located on Route 30 in East Caln where the Brandywine Square Shopping center is now located, since September 1979.

- Glenn Koser, Mark Mathis and Duane Krapf won individual championships, as the **DHS wrestling team** captured the Section IV, Class AAA crown.

- Former DHS standout Dan Bradlee won the adult **foul shooting competition**, sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Joint Recreation Board. Betty Connelly won the senior high division contest, Will Johnson took the junior high crown, and Steve McGowan earned the elementary level competition.

- Five members of the **DHS girls' indoor track squad** set new school records at a meet at Widener College. They included: Renee Gallman, Jane Dickson, Judy O'Connell and Barrie Benjamin, who combined for a 1:37.8 in the four-lap relay, and Ave Gaffney ran a 7:32 one-mile race.

It's the old Buck School in East Brandywine



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the above photo as the former Buck School in East Brandywine Township. It's not known exactly when the school was built, but according to Barbara Paul's "A History of East Brandywine Township," there was a school (probably a log building) on Buck Road in 1861. And in 1880, the stone, one-story school shown above was constructed. "The school took its name from its proximity to the Buck Tavern, the well-known coach stop on the Horseshoe Pike" (now Route 322). Later, the tavern "became somewhat unrespectable and the association between school and tavern was not to the liking of the (East Brandywine) school board." So, the school's name was changed to Harmony.

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 can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

News items first published 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the early part of January 1964:

- **Joseph Newlin**, Downingtown police chief, received Distinguished Civic Award at the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** 19th annual banquet, held at the Downingtown Motor Inn. Newlin had served on the borough police force for 34 years, as of 1964.
- Elected to lead the Ladies Auxiliary of the **Minquas Fire Co.** were Mrs. Daniel Zittle, president; Mrs. Walter Nichols, vice president; Blanche Summers, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Norris, secretary; Mrs. Sidney Unruh, financial secretary; Mrs. Edna Pendergrast, chaplain; and trustees Marie Hamilton and Mrs. Maynard Collier.
- David Sharp and Ralph Erskine Jr., who filled the unexpired term of Paul Pennypacker, were appointed to **Uwchlan Township's** Planning Commission.
- William Smith was elected chairman of the **West Bradford Township** board of supervisors at the annual reorganization meeting. Other supervisors holding office on the board were Edwin Hill, vice chairman; and Horace Rodgers, secretary-treasurer. Harry Cattell was a newly elected supervisor, and John Griggs was re-appointed to the Planning Commission.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** gained a 32-31 lead over Phoenixville in the opening minutes of the second half, but the Phantoms subsequently scored 29 points in third quarter, and the Whippets suffered a 73-50 loss. Mike Pollock led the Downingtown offense with 13 points, and Oscar Asparagus tallied 11. Downingtown also succumbed to a late rally by Spring-Ford, and the Rams edged the Whippets in a 50-48 heart-breaker. With 14 points, Pollock was the only Whippet in double figures.
- Liz Von Hacht, who scored 13 points, led the Whippette offense, as the **DHS girls' basketball squad** beat West Chester Henderson 35-31.

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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

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, Annette Bethke and Dennis Walton.

News retrieved from *The Archive* in the winter of 1955

- Although four Whippets scored in double figures, the **DHS boys' basketball squad** lost to West Chester 96-74. Downingtown's offensive leaders in the game were: Norris Miller, 20 points; John Bousum, 16; John Chilla, 14; and Lloyd Price, 11.
- Mrs. Robert Hadfield was elected president of the Couples Class at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, and Downingtown's Dr. Harlan Sharp was elected president of the **Chester County Medical Society**. Also, James Fennelly was named chairman of the **Polio Fund** for the Downingtown area.
- New members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Rick Gindin, Al Herman, Rev. Alfred Vail and Wilson Pollock.
- **Glen Moore Girl Scouts** who enjoyed a cold-weather hike included Peggy and Karen Funk, Joan Stevens, Peggy Jo and Marian Jones, Eileen Mercer, Anne Galt, Dolores Harple, Nancy Ortlip, Paula Shrader, Vonnie Hohl and Linda Hogan.

News found in *The Archive* in the autumn of 1943

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive in the fall months of 1943:

- There were 1,080 students enrolled in the **Downingtown School District**, including 263 who lived outside the borough and their tuition was paid by the 16 townships where they resided.
- **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, celebrated its 100th anniversary. Shortly after a small group held the first service in the home (487 E. Lancaster Ave.) of Andrew Wills in the autumn of 1842, the new congregation used the Masonic Hall (which was next to the church, and later was the parish rectory) for worship services. The cornerstone for the church was laid in June 1843, and the new church was dedicated on October 26 the same year. The church was enlarged in 1863, and a transept was added. After the borough passed an ordinance banning graveyards in Downingtown, the bodies buried behind the church were moved to the new Northwood Cemetery on Route 113.
- The first issue of a **new student newspaper**, *The Blue and Gold*, was published by DHS pupils in December of 1943. The staff included: Mary Jo Barrow, editor-in-chief; Elizabeth Bradley, junior editor; Dorothy Bunker, business manager; and Elvin Welch, art editor. The first edition had "A Salute to Our Boys in the Service" section, which included excerpts of correspondence from Joe Travaglini, Joe Colella, Franklin Dague, Paul Entekin, Francis Fennelly, Harold Miller, Joe Crawford, Leta Tweed, Don Jameson and Bill Broschard. Other sections of the paper included news about the high school's Hostess Club, Hillbilly Band, and Swing Orchestra.
- A **Pigeon Racing Club** was formed in Downingtown. Charter officers were William Harrison, president; Richard Dague, vice president; Ross Dague, secretary; and Jack Law, treasurer. The club's race committee included Mark Dague, Gardner Kennan and Jack Fleck. Most of the members had registered their lofts with the government.
- Although the **Whippet football team** had garnered only two wins before the last game, DHS closed its 1943 season with a 26-0 victory over Pottstown. Downingtown's touchdowns were scored by Andy Ippolito, Chet Harple, Tony Mattioni and 250-pound tackle John McGowan, who lugged an intercepted pass 35 yards for the final TD. There was no traditional Thanksgiving Day game that year.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

A N N O U N C E M E N T

I WISH to express my Appreciation to the Public for their former patronage and wish to announce my returning after being away five (5) years. I have a Newly

Renovated Restaurant

With Additional Table Space -- Excellent Service -- Good Eats at All Times -- Extra-Large Home-Made Pies and the Same Desire to Serve the Public as Before.

Central Light Lunch

NICK ZAFERES, Prop.

Opp. Bank Corner

East Downingtown

We Will Be Open DAY and NIGHT After Feb. 15

We sell \$5.50 Worth of Milk Checks For \$5.00

This ad was published in the February 25, 1926 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Madam Marie Curie

Ann Atkins, historian and author, will present a program on Madame Marie Curie (1867-1934) at a meeting of the West Caln Historical Society at 7 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are always open to the public and are free.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

A meeting will be held at the East Brandywine Township municipal building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, at 7 PM on Thursday, Feb. 25, to outline plans for the exhibit of a 250-foot, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is coming to East Brandywine this summer. Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will host the replica memorial wall and accompanying mobile education center display, the only Chester County venue on a national tour. The exhibition will be available for viewing throughout the day and night from July 28 to Aug. 1 at East Brandywine Township Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road.

Blood Drive

The Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 26 in the Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up to make a donation, please use the link on the borough's website - www.downingtowntown.org.

Farmers Community Market of Downingtown

The Community Farmers Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Feb. 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact gaukerfarms@gmail.com; or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

Oldies Dance Party

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Oldies Dance Party fundraiser, featuring Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat, also known as "The Geator with The Heater" and "the Boss with the Hot Sauce." You're encouraged to join the fun, from 9-11 on Saturday, April 9 at the Covered Bridge Room in Kimberton. Tickets are \$75 each and that includes food, beer, wine and raffles. Contact the center at 610-269-3939 to reserve your tickets.

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.