



## 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?



Yes, it's difficult to decipher the lettering on the brick wall in the photo above, and don't be fooled if you do figure out the name of the business. Also, to be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar, the winner must provide the name of the business that occupies that building today. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are more items originally published in local newspapers in February 1964:

- Downingtown's Borough Council, including several councilmen, who assumed their newly elected posts in January 1964, failed to override Mayor Creston Shoemaker's veto of a proposal to **add fluoride to the town's public water system**. Shoemaker had vetoed Council's

4-2 vote in favor of the proposal in December 1963. It would have taken a 5-1 vote to override the veto. One of several councilmen who were installed in January 1964, was Tom Courtless, who claimed that fluoridation didn't make good sense, economically, because less than 4% of the 376,247,000 gallons of water processed through the borough's filtration system in 1963 was consumed by individual residents. Courtless also said the number of names on the petitions in support or opposed to the proposal were essentially equal, with 587 signatures in favor of the proposal and 578 signers against it.

- The **West Bradford School Board** decided that the 32-acre Edward Stouff property on Marshallton-Thorndale Road was the best site for a new elementary school in the township. However, there was concern about the need to spend \$24,000 to build a 4,000-foot-long sewer line to connect with a proposed sewage disposal plant.

- Members of the Luther League at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in Lionville, who enjoyed a bowling party at the Ingleside Bowling Alley in Thorndale, were Helen Bittmann, Thomas Isinger, Sheryl Hartman, Lois Dahlberg, Charles Martin, Samuel Acker, Douglas Wilt, Darlene Windle, Donna Zeltwanger, Carol Fowler and Millie Blake.

- Cubs in Downingtown's **Pack 2** who earned "Bob Cat" pins were Danny Katherina, Steve Miller, Bert Hough, Steve Best, Steve Singer, Clarence Miller, Blake Dornan, Joe Eppolito, Steve Winward and Al DiMatteo.

- Members of **Forks of Brandywine Presbyterian Church** in Glenmoore, who were ordained or elected, included: elders Edward Hitchcock and John Ferguson; and deacons Mrs. Scott Ferguson, Mrs. Walter Hadfield, George Miller, Joseph Stauffer, Miriam Wise and Charles Zeiders. William Swisher was elected as an elder, and Ralph Davidson, Staughton Erickson and Homer Stover were elected as trustees.

- **Bob Boyer**, who had lettered in baseball, basketball and soccer at West Chester State College, was named head coach of the DHS baseball team. Daryl French was appointed as coach of the jayvee baseball squad. Boyer succeeded **Charlie Forte**, who had been head baseball coach and an assistant football coach at Downingtown for many years.

- Elected as officers of **Wallace Township's Planning Commission** were: Norman Piersol, chairman; Carl Maenak, vice chairman; Mrs. John Frankenfield, secretary; Beatrice Howson, treasurer; and Mrs. Walter Ford, recording secretary.

- New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Frances Sosko, Mrs. William Steimer, Mrs. Stephen Casper, Mrs. Richard Nelms, Mrs. Harry Shreiner and Mrs. Richard Zubyk.

- Elected as officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were: George Ruark, president; Lewis Dewees, vice president; Warren Smith, secretary; Jonathan Windle, treasurer; Carl Ruth, membership secretary; Allen Woodward, trustee; and John Trego, fire chief. The company had responded to 79 fires in 1963.

- Linda Davis scored 11 points, as the **DHS girls' basketball team** edged Coatesville 25-21. But the Whippettes suffered their first league defeat, as they lost to Phoenixville 29-18.

- Coach Mel Brodsky's **DHS boys' basketball squad** didn't recover from a 27-18 deficit in the first half, and a 15-12 rally in the fourth quarter wasn't enough to beat O.J. Roberts, as Downingtown lost 59-54. In the next contest, DHS was routed by Pottstown, 82-36. And although the Whippets "looked terrific" in the first period, said Brodsky, they "collapsed" in the second quarter and ultimately were beaten 77-47 by Boyertown.

## DHS Alumni Association names four to Hall of Fame

Four graduates will be installed into the Downingtown High School Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 132<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday night, April 16.

Those who will be installed, and their respective categories of achievement, are: Dr. Diane DiEuliis, Class of 1984, Science and Government; William "Grumpy" Jenkins, Class of 1949, Science and Engineering; Pamela Foy, Class of 1974, Science and Medical Research; and Wilson Pollock, Class of 58, Architecture.

Individual profiles on the new Hall of Fame honorees will be published in March editions of the Hist-O-Gram.

For more details on the banquet, and to make reservations, see:

[www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html).

### Vintage Ad of the Week:

## 1926 Sales

# The Apex

## In Cars and



## Service 1932

# OF VALUES

## SERVICE

Nash Quality and Value will sell you — Our Expert Service and Square-dealing Policies will keep you sold. Satisfying You is the only thing that will Satisfy Us.

See the  
**New Nash**  
In Five Models  
Come In Now and See Them



We Also Sell and Service  
ATWATER KENT  
— and —  
R. C. A. RADIOS  
GOODYEAR TIRES  
ATLANTIC GAS  
GENERAL REPAIRING  
Official Inspection Station No. 5316

## AN INSTITUTION

Keeping Pace with the needs of our Community and Keeping Faith with the People by selling Products of Known Value and Appreciation, by rendering a Super Service at Fair Prices and with Square Dealing.

# Brandywine NASH Motor Co.

E. H. USHER Proprietor  
206 East Lancaster Avenue    ::    ::    ::    Phone 393  
DOWNTOWN, PA.

This ad was published in 1932 editions of *The Downingtown News*.

# Local news items during the WW II era

Noted below are items originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* during the fall of 1943:

- Two alumni told DHS students of their **war experiences** at assemblies at the high school. Gerald Whiteman, Class of 1938, had been an electrician on a Navy hospital ship in the South Pacific for two years. And when the Japanese attacked the United States on Dec. 7, 1941, Whiteman was stationed on the only hospital ship at Pearl Harbor. The crew of that ship, *The Solace*, Whiteman said, saved the lives of many sailors who were victims of the surprise attack. Subsequently, that ship came to the rescue of American casualties in the battles of Santa Cruz, the Coral Sea and the Solomon Islands. While serving in the Pacific, Whiteman said he encountered several Downingtown boys, including: Bob Williams, Lester Snell, Lewis Capriotti, Albert DelPaggio, Robert Forrester, William Gerhart and Bill Broschard.

And at another assembly, Army Air Corps Technical Sergeant Maurice Gottier, Class of 1939, told the students about some of his experiences while flying on 40 bombing missions during the African campaign. One of them was when he had to be rescued from the sea, near enemy strongholds, by his comrades. Because of his bravery, the Upper Uwchlan native was chosen to speak at War Bond rallies in several cities in the South.

- Students at Downingtown's West Ward Elementary School collected more than **2,200 pounds of tin cans**, and Morris Steifel, owner of the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue gave movie passes to the 30 kids who collected the most cans. They also observed the December 7 attack at Pearl Harbor by buying \$431.95 worth of War Bonds and stamps.

- In addition to agriculture students' displays of livestock and farm products at the second annual DHS Farm Show, the event included a **Victory Garden** competition, which was open to all residents of the borough or surrounding townships. Each entry had at least five vegetables grown in local residents' Victory Gardens. Nearly 20 million Americans planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops during WW II.

- Although their season was over, members of the **DHS football team** were still operating under the guidance of Coach Vince Daher. Most of the players were members of the V Club, which Daher established so the Whippet gridders could contribute to the war effort by knitting woolen squares for blankets to be donated to military servicemen. And if a player failed to show up for a knitting session, he had to pay a fine, which was used to purchase more wool.

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

**Group Photo of the Week:**



Players in this photo of the DHS girls' basketball team in 1923-24 season were: first row: Ann Yohn, Jane Downing, Lib Deets; second row, Helen Osborne, Dorothy Gatley; back row, Lib Supplee, Mary Chalfont (coach and English teacher), and Betty Bird.

*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.*

## **Ex-DHS basketball star named a “legend”**

Tora Suber, DHS Class of 1993, will be installed next week in the Atlantic Coast Conference’s 12th annual class of Women’s Basketball Legends, as the University of Virginia’s honoree. Suber will be inducted on Saturday, March 5, as part of the 2016 ACC Women’s Basketball Tournament, held at the Greensboro (NC) Coliseum. Suber earned a degree in English Literature at Virginia.

She starred on Whippet girls’ basketball teams that won four District 1 titles and two state crowns in the early 1990s. Suber and teammate Tina Nicholson, DHS Class of 1992—who became a standout point guard at Penn State and a WBNA draftee—formed a dynamic duo during Coach Bob Schnure’s halcyon days at Downingtown.

Suber led the Cavaliers to three-straight ACC regular-season championships and back-to-back appearances in the NCAA’s Elite Eight. She finished her outstanding career as a Naismith Finalist and was named to the Basketball Weekly All-America first team and AP Honorable Mention All-American. She graduated as the all-time leader in 3-point field goals made (220) and still holds that record today. Suber was picked in the first round as the seventh pick overall of the 1997 WNBA draft by the Charlotte Sting. She played professionally for two seasons. Suber is employed by the New York City Department of Education.

## **It’s at 12 East Welsh Pool Road in Lionville**



Not one soul correctly identified the house in the photo above, which was the “What and Where Is This?” picture in last week’s Hist-O-Gram. Built in 1929, the house is located at 12 East Welsh Pool Road in Lionville.

# Brief but important

A bronze memorial plaque was dedicated at Glen Moore Methodist Church in November 1953. It included the names of 10 Civil War veterans who were buried in the church cemetery. They were: George W. Gates, Elias O. Griffith, George B. Guy, James Herrington, Benjamin G. Lewis, James G. Lyon, George O. Rice, Levi F. Snyder and John F. Syphard. The plaque was unveiled by Shirley Snyder, great granddaughter of Levi Snyder, and C. Rupert Davis, great grandson of Benjamin Lewis. Larue Williamson accepted the memorial for the church's trustees.

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Remember when the Bell Telephone office was on Green Street in the borough, and an operator immediately said, "Number please," whenever you picked up your phone's receiver to make a call? Back in 1952, there were 13 switchboards in the phone company's local office. And 42 "girls" provided 24/7 service, according to an article in the Downingtown Paper Co. employee magazine, the DOPACO Diary. Mrs. Helen Campbell was the chief operator, and Grace Vernon was in charge of the evening shift, while Anna Dellett was the supervisory staff's desk clerk. On a typical day, the operators handled 9,000 calls, including 3,000 pay calls.

## 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@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Afternoon Tea*

Members of the United Methodist Women of Romansville United Methodist Church, 1859 Strasburg Road, will have an afternoon tea at the church from 2-4 PM on Saturday, February 27. In addition to freshly brewed tea, the menu will include homemade finger sandwiches, scones, lemon curd and fancy desserts. Tickets, which cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for women under 12, must be purchased in advance by calling 610- 486-6079 or 610-486-6741. For more details, see: [www.romansville.org](http://www.romansville.org).

### *Night at the Oscars*

You can watch clips from films nominated for an Oscars and guess the Oscar winners when the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Avenue, offers a Night at the Oscars at 6:30 PM Friday, February 26. The person who makes the most correct guesses of Oscar winners will receive a prize. You can register via: [www.downingtowntnlibrary.org](http://www.downingtowntnlibrary.org).

### ***Replica of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall***

An informational/organizational 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 in Washington, DC, which is coming to East Brandywine this summer. Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will host the replicated memorial wall and an 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. For more info, send an email to Linda Mento at [ocitylinda@aol.com](mailto:ocitylinda@aol.com).

### ***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](http://www.downingtowntown.org).

### ***History of Boyd's Corner***

Richard (Dick) Dague, a historian and librarian, will talk about the History of Boyd's Corner (Sadsbury Twp.) and the Boyd Family, which settled in western Sadsbury Township in 1724. The first one was Rev. Adam Boyd, the first pastor of Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church. The program, conducted by the West Caln Historical Society, will be offered at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 15 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. It will be free to all and all are welcome.

### ***Italian Dinner***

The Marshallton United Methodist Church Youth Group will host an Italian Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 12. There will be continuous seating. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children (5~12). A silent auction will be held during the dinner. Proceeds will go to assist the youth on their summer mission trips. Marshallton UMC is located at 1282 West Strasburg Road. For more information, contact the church at [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) or (610) 696-5247.

### ***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 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact [gaukerfarms@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### ***Alert's Golf Outing***

Downingtowntown's all-volunteer, Alert Fire Co. will host its third annual golf outing at Ron Jaworski's Downingtown Country Club as a fund-raising event, and they are asking for local and national sponsorship for this event. The outing will take place on Monday, May 2. You can access more details on the outing via [www.alertgolfouting.org/](http://www.alertgolfouting.org/).

### ***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).