



## 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?



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](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## News items first published in January of 1963

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers, which were published in the early part of January 1963:

- The **Upper Uwchlan Farmers Club** was celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, when the first meeting was held at the home of Horace Fetters on December 16, 1913.
- Warren Strawsnyder was elected president of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce**. Also elected were Chandler Cushman, first vice president; Rogers Bender, second

vice president; and Charles Thompson, treasurer. New directors were Calvin Mingione, Roland Moore, Dick Baker, Joseph Mento and Charles Gerbron.

- Plans to build a **34-unit apartment house** at West Lancaster and Gabel Avenues in Downingtown were opposed, due to potential density issues, by several residents of nearby homes, and the borough planning commission, which had recommended that the apartment house should be limited to 24 units.

- Featured roles in the **DHS Senior Class** production of “The Bachelor,” were played by Mary Ellen Crosby, Diane Gindin, Ralph Kurash, June Williamson and Kenny Matthewson.

- Elected as officers of the **Uwchlan Township Civic Association** were: Robert Sommer, president; Edwin Van Deusen, vice president; David Smith, secretary; John Watson, treasurer; Samuel Shaw, sergeant-at-arms; and Charles Martin, director. The association sold Christmas trees at the township buildings, and 20% of the proceeds were donated to the Lionville Fire Co. and the balance would be used to pay for the “Lionville” signs installed at the ends of the village.

- Girls invested into **Downingtown Brownie Troop 131** included: Deborah Ann Jones, Mary Ann Hildebeitel, Melanie Lacey, Sherry Lee Andress, Janice Wasmuth and Connie Williams. And members of **Brownie Troop 69, East Brandywine**, who received membership stars, were Linda Stillwell, Sandra Fry, Connie Matthews, Cindy Baker, Barbara Miller, Sue Nailor, Anne Johnson, Debbie Mertz, Melinda King, Robin Radcliff, Patsy Baldwin, Paula Raysor and Cherylen Nellius.

- DHS tackle Rich DiEugenio was named to the first team offense of the **All-Ches-Mont League**, selected by the conference’s coaches. DHS halfback Oscar Asparagus was named to both the second team offense and defense.

- Newly elected leaders of the Lutheran Church Women at **St. Paul’s Lutheran in Lionville** were Mrs. Roy Gulliford, president; Mrs. Matthew Nowakowski, vice president; Mrs. William Isinger, secretary; Edith Oberholser, treasurer.

- The **Whippet wrestling team** opened its season with a 41-11 win over Unionville. Leroy Cox, 138 pounds; Art Reyling, 145; and Bob Carl, 154; registered pins in less than two minutes in each of their matches.

- Members of Glen Moore Methodist Church, who reorganized **Boy Scout Troop 79**, included William Funk, Thomas Miller, Edward Moore, John Shrader and Rev. F.R. Landis.

- The Super Grocery in the **Downingtown Farmers Market** in East Caln was selling 2-pound cans of Chase & Sanborn coffee for \$1.15 and 2-pound boxes of Aunt Jemima pancake mix for 29 cents.

- Students, who participated in a presentation of “Thanksgiving Story” at **Brandywine-Wallace School**, were: Sharon Smith, Peter Dougherty, Pamela Whiteman, Bradley Livezey, Darlene Reber, Paul Murphy, Susan Weaver, Paul Givler, Susan Wilson, Diane Yost, Michael Short, Karen Nelson, Robin Nellius, Terry Green, Peter Hickey and Marilyn Deck.

- The **DHS boys’ basketball team** suffered a 39-35 loss to Oxford, despite Bill Pollock’s 19 points. Three nights later, the Whippets bounced back to edge Octorara, 45-41.

- Glenn Wagner was re-elected president of the **Pickering-Brandywine Joint School Board**, and Edward McCausland was re-elected vice president. Presidents of other local school boards were Roger Irely, Wallace Township; Carl Kopenhaver, Upper Uwchlan; and Nevin Myer, West Pikeland.

## It's at 1326 West Strasburg Road in Marshallton



Not one soul recognized this house on the main drag (West Strasburg Road) of downtown Marshallton.

## What area residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of June 1948:

- The **Downingtown Fire Department** sponsored the Chester County Firemen's annual parade, which attracted 30 fire companies, nine ladies auxiliaries, 12 bands and bugle corps and 55 pieces of equipment. All told, there were 3,000 participants in the two-hour parade. Parade divisions were headed by these Downingtown fire marshals: Walter Phillips, Martin Binder, John Myers, Walter Shaw and Paul Miller. The ceremonies included the burning of the mortgage of the \$50,000 Alert fire station, constructed in 1941, and the housing of the Alerts' new Seagraves 750-gallon pumper and the Minquas' new Autocar emergency truck.
- The **Downingtown Young Men's Association** sponsored the annual Middle Atlantic track and field meet, sanctioned by the American Athletic Union. It attracted nearly 300 contestants who competed in 26 events, and 3,000 spectators at the DHS Stadium. Among the runners who won trophies and medals were: Villanova's Browning Ross, Seton Hall's Frank Fox, and Penn State's Jim Gehrdes; each of whom won two events and set a new meet record.

- Instructors at the Vacation Bible School at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle included Mrs. Sterling Henley, Arlene and Mary Henley, Mrs. Conley Davis, Rachel Miller, Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Van Valkenberg and Ruth Pollock.
- Pupils at **Mount Airy School** in Uwchlan who made the honor roll were Virginia Scott, Ruth and Joseph Collins, John and Henry Hine, Judy Swarner, Janet Harple, James Linderman and Shirley Wenger.
- Local **Girl Scouts** who were the best cookie salespersons included Jean Brammer, 102 boxes; Fay Manzi, 77; Shirley Rowe, 68; and Annabelle Warnick, 66.
- Elected as officers of **Downingtown's Women of the Moose** were Marion Judd, senior regent; Anna Badum, junior regent; Mrs. Earl Lemon, chaplain; Mrs. William Algier, secretary; and Mrs. Carrie Francella, treasurer.
- Prizes were awarded, for their academic averages at **Lionville Elementary School** to: Wayne Pfeil, Karen Rickard, Margaret Detweiler, Samuel Matthews, Nicholas Spies, Joanne Rice, Schuyler Rennard and Dennis Ellmore.
- Elected to lead the **Downingtown American Legion Auxiliary** were Mrs. Paul McCombs, president; Mrs. Mark Bareford, first vice president; Mrs. Earl Shirk, second vice president; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Esther Williams, treasurer; Helen Gregory, historian; Mrs. Fred Brookover, chaplain; and Anna Dougherty, sergeant-s-arms.
- Eighth graders who had the highest average at **Indiantown School**, Glenmoore, were William Harrop and Kenneth Comstock, and the seventh graders with the best marks were Francis Canella and Jacqueline Markey.
- Leaders of Downingtown's **Alert Fire Co.** agreed to preserve the fire bell, which had been used at the company's first fire station on Stuart Avenue, which had been sold recently to the **Mason's Williamson Lodge**.
- **Faculty awards** were presented to these DHS seniors: Netha Beumer, English and science; William Chalfant, social studies; Duane Chesney, math; Betty Moore, language; Beverly Chandler, commercial; Charlotte Hannum, home economics; Frank Pomento, art; A. C. Hammons, agriculture; and Virginia Bare, music. Eighth graders Jane Kriebel and Ralph Paccinelli won the American Legion medal;

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

Vintage ad of the week:

*the*  
**GRANDEST**  
**OPENING...**

*a Community of fine Colonial Homes*

**Marchwood** ... a departure from the ordinary! Here's the kind of living you've waited for ... on a 170-acre woodland setting: the perfect background for your home. You'll find breathtaking room outside ... large wooded lots with all improvements including public sewers and water plus sidewalks! 100' x 200' minimum lot size. You'll find room inside, too! Each home is designed for airy "clutter free" living with all modern conveniences, including GE Dishwasher, counter top range, Eye-Level Oven and Disposal.



**RANCHER**

3 Bedrooms, 1½ Baths,  
 2-Car Garage, Expand-  
 able Basement.

**\$15,990**

FHA Financing Available

Decorated by Dubrows  
 Drawn by Silk Leaders  
 Lester H. Wackesser, Architect



**2-STORY**

4-Bedroom, 1½ Baths,  
 Full Basement, Garage,  
 Large Recreation Room.

**\$18,490**

**SPLIT-LEVEL**

4 Bedrooms, 1½ Baths,  
 Family Room, Garage.

**\$17,890**

**Marchwood**

3 Furnished Samples Open 1-8 Daily, 1-6 Sat., 12-8 Sun.

KENT HOMES, INC., Builder      CARNAVIL & CO., Agent, LI 8-5838  
 NI 4-5721      Sample 363-9793

From  
 West Chester  
 North on  
 Route 100 to  
 Marchwood  
 north of  
 Exton.



This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on December 6, 1963

## Group photo of the week:

### **Members of St. Joseph's Holy Name Society in 1920s**



Members of the Holy Name Society at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown in the early 1920s were, left to right: front row, John Mahan, Joseph Francella, John Doyle, John Donnelly, Paul Snyder, Mr. Ciarlone, Anthony Donato; second row, John Sheehy, Charles Fennelly, Joseph McFadden, John Doran, Charles Furlong, Father Joseph Kelly, Frank Lenhardt, Henry Euler, William Williams, Mike Donofrio, Hugh Gormley, Alphonse Travaglini, William Mahan, Mike Sheehy, Simon McCarty; third row, Charles Ellis, Al Schneider, Paul Walker, Andrew Walker, James Fennelly, Eugene Bowman, John Manley, John Euler, Walter Snyder, John Cahill, Thomas Donnelly, Richard Cahill, James Dolan, Frank McCuen, George Fisher; fourth row, Thomas Bowman, Mr. Bray, Dick Bowman, Frank Clarke, Emil Ceulers, Charles Donato, Charles Cozzone, John Travaglini, James McMenniman, Thomas Dolan, Dominic Talucci, Richard Carroll, John Hanrahan and Robert Dougherty. Photo was originally published in the *History of St. Joseph Parish*, published in 2002.

*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.*

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***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.downingtown.org](http://www.downingtown.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. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact [gauckerfarms@gmail.com](mailto:gauckerfarms@gmail.com); or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

### ***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: [JPC Cheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPC Cheryl@verizon.net).

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