



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.

More items first published in December of 1963

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

- About two-thirds of **East Caln Township**—including the Downingtown Motor Inn and Downingtown Farmers Market (the sites where the Brandywine Square and Ashbridge Square shopping centers on Route 30 are now located)—would soon be annexed by the **Borough of Downingtown**. Walter Leland, borough manager, revealed that information in a meeting with the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors. Petitions to annex over 400 acres of primarily commercial property in the township “are well on the road to being executed,” said Leland. The impetus for the major merger, continued Leland, was the long-range plan to establish an authority to handle water and sewer challenges in Downingtown and its surrounding townships.

- Participants in a Christmas Story presentation by the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were: John Miller, William Miles, Regina Dorsey, Roma Snyder, Pat Zinn, Gary and Adrian Keenan, Harold Earnshaw, Carl Harple, Charles and Philip Williams, and Richard Munson.

- Installed as officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the East Brandywine Fire Co.** were Dorothy Piersol, president; Peg Pierce, vice president; Beverly McCarty, recording secretary; Helen Laird, financial secretary; Ruth Lammey, treasurer; and Hannah Harner, chaplain.

- Members of the Junior High group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** who participated in a skit included: Sandy McCombs, Susan Reed, Jennifer Bruton, Susan Myers, Ginny Potter, Prissy Echols, James Curry and Debbie Beam.

- Soloists who sang with the mixed chorus at the **DHS Christmas Concert** were Kenneth Matthews, Jill King, James Helms, Nancy Martin and Ronnie Pierce. Patricia Whitely, Sherry Massimini, Gina Myers and Warren Emery were the accompanists.

- Elected as officers of the Women’s Association at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glenmoore, were Mrs. Roy Cummins, vice president; Mrs. John Black, program chairman; Mrs. Gilbert Cornog, fellowship chairman; and Mrs. Edwin Kalemjian, treasurer.

- The tour of five local homes, sponsored by the **Downingtown Junior Woman’s Club**, attracted 150 people. Mrs. Lawrence Jamieson was the tour chairman. The tour began with a dessert and bazaar at the clubhouse.

- Members of **Cub Pack 152, Marshallton**, who earned advancements were Steve Verngren, Jeff and Rick Andrien, and Mike Sellers.

- Rev. Harry Sink, pastor of **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, accepted a call from a church in Oakland, NJ. While he served for four years at the Guthriesville church, there were 51 baptisms and 74 new members, which was one-third of its active membership.

- The **DHS boys’ basketball team** defeated Owen J. Roberts 53-46 because the Whippets made 17 of 25 foul shots. In its next game, however, Downingtown succumbed to hot-shooting Pottstown by a 77-44 score. And DHS lost to St. Pius X 61-50 in the first round of the Royersford Jaycees Holiday Tournament. Mike Pollock, 19 points, and Clark Bartell, 12, led the Whippet scoring.

- Frank Bates was elected treasurer of the **West Bradford Fire Co.**, replacing G. L. Moore, whose resignation was accepted with regrets. And Ron Trimble, of the recreation committee reported that the Ladies Auxiliary had donated a TV set to the fire company.

Group Photo of the Week:



The photo above was retrieved from the October 1951 edition of the Downingtown Paper Company's employee magazine, *The DOPACO Diary*. Pictured left to right were the guys who worked in the company's pipe shop back then: front row, Al Chandler, Walter Lair, Danny Massimini and Gabe Pomento; back row, Benny Forte, Nate Sheehan, John Massimini, Jim Anderson and Joe McGrogan. (*Editor's note: The only copies of the DOPACO Diary we have are from the early 1950s. So, if there are copies taking up space at your house, we'd love to add them to our archival collection.*)

What area residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local papers in the early part of July 1948:

- **Downingtown's VFW Post and Lions Club** donated a total of \$280 so four local boys and girls could go to Camp Chesapeake for two weeks. The four boys were Charles Brown, Paul Brinton, James Evans and Robert Miller. (The article didn't include the girls' names).
- The second annual **Good Neighbor Day**, sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association, was held in Kerr Park. Chairman Ernie Smedley said the entertainment included magician Harry Brown, a Downingtown boy, and Ore Marino's newly formed band, The Syncopators. The day's events started with a track meet, and the semi-finals of a tennis tournament. Afternoon events included games for kids under 13, child calling and rolling pin throwing contests for women, plus a pie and cake baking competition.
- The **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** sponsored a square dance at the West Ward School. Francis Brown was the caller. The committee responsible for the fundraiser included Mrs. Thomas Brookover, Mrs. Thomas Lee, Mrs. Horace Miller Jr. and Marilou Page.

- Creston Shoemaker was elected president of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce**. Also elected were Everett Hoopes, first vice president; Edward Towson, second vice president; Herbert Kreider, secretary; Earl Entrekin, treasurer; and directors Charles Emery, Dr. Harlan Sharp, Lewis Snyder and Ray Sheeler.

- Many people came to the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** carnival on the night they could watch the Joe Louis vs. Jersey Joe Walcott heavyweight boxing match on the company's TV set. The Downingtown Stump Jumpers were the entertainers on Saturday night. (*Editor's note: Anyone know anything about that group?*)

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were: William Allen, president; Vinton Smedley, first vice president; Morris Jackson, second vice president; Morse Garwood, third vice president; John Rodgers, secretary; Joseph Matthewson, treasurer; James Fennelly, lion tamer; Dr. William Reed, tail twister; and directors William Bixler, Frank Bishop, Russell Curry and Aubrey Goudie.

- Newly elected officers of the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown included: Marion Judd, senior regent; Anna Badum, junior regent; Mary Algiers, recorder; Carrie Francella, treasurer; and Lucy Lemon, chaplain.

- Members of the **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club**, who planned a coon dog field trial, held at Hickory Park in Upper Uwchlan, were Daniel Rothas, Clyde and Elmer Esworthy, James Summers and Joseph Swarner.

- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 10 in Marshallton**, who spent several days camping in a cabin near Nottingham, included JoAnn LeFevre, Edith Smyers, Evelyn Bunting, Edith Albertson, Shirley Lamborn, Verna and Sylvia Hall, Mary Esther Yarnall, Jeanie Thomson, Mary Brackbill, Dolores Lambert, June Ann Ellingsworth, Glenna Hurley, Mary and Dorothy Ford, Dorothy Kelsall and Jean Woodward.

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.

Our Wish List works: Shelley Smyth Francies gave us a copy of Downingtown Junior High's 1977 Lancer yearbook. And thanks to another donor, we were able to buy a new portable projection screen.

Vintage Ad of the Week:



Christmas Day Dinner
... it's a real treat at



**The
1896
HOUSE**

We serve you with generous portions of delicious Christmas foods, expertly prepared. Quiet, attractive atmosphere.

Dinners from 3.95 — Children 2.75
Serving from 12 Noon to 9:30 P.M.
for Reservations Call 269-1000

Welcome 1964 at the 1896 House

Special Full-Course Dinner
featuring Roast Prime Ribs of Beef AuJus
or Charcoal Broiled Sirloin Steak
Party Hats, Noise Makers—Orchestra 10 P.M.-2 A.M.
\$15 per couple ● Make Your Reservations NOW
269-1000



Note: For those planning to attend private parties New Year's Eve, The 1896 House will serve the regular dinner from 5 to 9:30 P.M. at the usual prices. It's a delightful way to start the evening's festivities, and the lady of the house will love you for it.

Gala New Year's Eve DINNER DANCE
Ring out the old, ring in the new at "Party Headquarters" this New Year's Eve—the famed 1896 House at the Downingtown Motor Inn.
The 1896 House at the Downingtown Motor Inn
Located on Route 30 just E. of Downingtown



This ad was first published in the December 20, 1963 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

It's at 140 Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Twp.



Once again, not one soul tried to identify our mystery photo. It's located at 140 Moore Road in Upper Uwchlan Township. The house was built in 1808.

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

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.

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. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact 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. 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: JPC Cheryl@verizon.net.