



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. 24

June 23, 2016

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 locals were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in early November 1948:

- The **Downingtown Young Men's Association's** 33-voice chorus, attired in tuxedos, presented its first concert in the auditorium of the Junior-Senior High School. They were directed by Edward Irwin, choral director in the school district. Geraldine Swarner and Margaret Helm were the accompanists. Soloists included Joseph Travaglini, Hathaway Frain, Tabby Swarner and Robert Laird. The chorus also included Charles Bransford, Gordon Carpenter, Frank Hughes, Clarence Miller, John Shisler, Peter Short, Joshua Berrier, Frederick Bicking, Allen Hughes, Wilson Pollock, Dr. Anthony Ricci, John Williams, William Ash, Harvey Young, Floyd Lilley, Gibson McIlvaine, Frank Pendergrast, Charles Rhinier and Walter Shaw.

- Harry Truman, Democratic candidate, won another term in the White House when he defeated Tom Dewey, Republican candidate, in the **national election**, for the U.S. Presidency. However, Dewey received 29,258 of the 44,489 total votes cast in Chester County. Truman only got 14,670 votes in the county.

- Gifts presented to **Downingtown American Legion** members, for their service, included: a Hamilton watch to Duer Smedley and Walter Crandall; a Legionnaire cap to Joseph Miller; cigarette lighters to William Zittle and Dan Menna; a Legion blue and gold jacket to bugler Jack Helm; and a past commander's button and badge to Harlan Clavier.

- Officers of the Adult Sunday School Class at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Robert Ciaffoni, president; Douglas Barr, vice president; and Emma Hill, secretary-treasurer. And the church was having a Ham Supper--\$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for kids under 10.

- Appointed to the Welfare Committee at the **Downingtown VFW Post** were James Fennelly, Eugene Black and Joseph Eby. And James Ayers, Raymond Hashinger and George Hilton named to post's Christmas Party committee.

- Elected as officers of the Lutheran Men group at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Calvin Ax, president; Walter Shaw, vice president; James Steganius, secretary; and Clair Skiles, treasurer.

- The **DHS football team** scored a "major upset" when it knocked Coatesville out of contention for the county championship by beating the Raiders 19-6. Down 6-0 in the first quarter, the Whippet got on the scoreboard when Jack Helm tossed a pass to Pete Hayes in the end zone. Bill Hayes broke the 6-6 tie in the fourth quarter when he rambled 17 yards for a TD. Helm sealed the victory when he intercepted a Coatesville pass and ran it back for a score. A week earlier, Coach Don White's team blew a 6-0 lead, and lost 14-6 to Tredyffrin-Easttown.

- Winners of prizes for their costumes worn at **Halloween parties** noted below, included: **Mother's Club of Indiantown School, Glenmoore**: Ann Williamson, prettiest; Bob Young, ugliest; Barb Ford, funniest; Paula and Mark Shrader, most original.

Lionville Elementary School: Karen Rickard, prettiest; Robert Boyer, funniest; Peggy LaRose, ugliest; and Frank Dewees, hardest-to-guess.

Messiah Lutheran Church: Carl Engle, funniest; Donald Greenleaf, ugliest; Johnny Bousum and Clark Engle, most original; and Bobby Hamilton (dressed as a girl), prettiest.

Alert Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary: Mrs. Francis Brown, most original; Dorothy Robinson, prettiest; Hazel Ashenfelter, best-dressed; Bertha Myers, youngest looking; Betty Cumens and Elizabeth Whiteman, funniest; Dorothy Brown, oldest looking; Mrs. Paul Domsohn, ugliest; and Emma Rawson, hardest-to-guess.

The Greenleaf boys were paddling in Beaver Creek in Downingtown



Michael DiBerardinis, who grew up in Downingtown and now is Philadelphia's managing director, was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as Beaver Creek in the western end of the borough. The two boys in the photo were: in the front of the canoe, Don Greenleaf, who became Downingtown's borough manager; and paddling in the back, Tom Greenleaf, who became president of Chemical Leaman Tank Lines. The canoe they were paddling that day in August 1939 was primarily constructed of corrugated metal, which had been ripped off Al Schneider's garage roof.

Local news 88 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the spring of 1928:

- One of the correct answers to an *Archive* quiz about local history, was the revelation that **William and Mary Streets** in Downingtown were named after the son and daughter of Joshua Kames, who built 40 homes in the west end of the borough in the late 19th Century.
- Downingtown Police Chief Markward led **several raids** in the west end of the borough, and arrested 13 men and one woman for their involvement in bootlegging activities.
- Nearly 200 people attended a **father-son community banquet** held in the gymnasium of the Minquas Fire Co. The event was planned by Raymond Greenleaf, John Noll, Elmer Schrumpf and Charles Ax. The dinner was prepared and served by ladies from First Baptist Church. Music was provided by Margaretta Mahan's Sunnyland Jazz Orchestra.
- The **St. Joseph's Dramatic Club** put on a three-act comedy, at the Roosevelt Theatre. Members of the cast included Peg Bray, Nell Sheridan, Teresa Francella, Margaretta and Mary Mahan, Roselyn Kane. John Donnelly, Jack Welsh, Andy Mento and Fred Simone.
- The 38 members of the Downingtown School District's **Harmonica Band** and Ruth Shumway, their director, travelled by bus to Atlantic City where they performed for a Rotary convention, with 35 other Harmonica Bands, in a concert on Steel Pier. The boys also participated in a boardwalk parade.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Downingtown Junior High marching band's silk squad in the 1978-79 school year, were, left to right: Karen Atkinson, Stephanie Hogarth, Laura Sanner, Cynthia Karahalis and Sherri Pennell.

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If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, 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.

Vintage Photo of the Week

Grand Opening=Thurs., July 1

BRANCH OF

Sherman's Army and Navy Stores

Our New Store Located on Wallace Ave., Downingtown, Near Lincoln Highway

Working Men's Outfitters

With a Complete Line of Working Clothes, such as PANTS, OVERALLS, SHOES, SHIRTS, HOSIERY, HATS, UNDERWEAR, Etc. CAMP SUPPLIES, such as COTS, CHAIRS, CAMP TEENS, HAVESACKS, Etc. HARDWARE, such as PAINTS, KNIVES, LOCKS, REVOLVERS, RIFLES, Etc. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, such as HARMONICAS, UKULELES, SAXOPHONES, Etc. Also Trunks, Bags, Suitcases and a hundred other items too numerous to mention. Below we list a few items giving you an idea of our CUT PRICES:

Men's Khaki PANTS 89c. Value \$1.25	Blue Work Shirts 49c Value 75c	Men's Hosiery 9c 3 pair for 25c
Leather Tip & Palm GLOVES 49c Value 75c	B. V. D. Style Union Suits 49c Value 75c	Army Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers 39c each
Heavy Galvanized Lunch Buckets 59c Value 75c	Men's Work Handkerchiefs 4c Value 10c	Army Khaki BREECHES 95c Value \$1.75
Heavy Blue Overalls 95c Value \$1.50	Leather Putties \$1.95 Value \$3.50	White Navy TROUSERS 98c Value \$1.75
Men's Balbriggan Unionsuits 69c. val. \$1.25	Army Overalls & Jumper 79c	Army Cots \$2.98

**COME IN AND GIVE US A TRIAL !
L. SHERMAN & SONS**

This ad first appeared in the July 1, 1926 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Summer Jam Music Festival

The Summer Jam Music Festival series at Kerr Park will begin from 6-10 PM on Friday, June 24. The festival, sponsored by the Downingtown Main Street Association and Kimberton Whole Foods, will include music by: The Happy Pita, Mompops Artisan Popsicles, Love Chunk Cookies, Baba's Brew Kombucha and a beer garden hosted by Station Taproom. For more details, check out: <http://downingtownmainstreet.com/blog/summer-jam-series-friday-june-24>

Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, will have its ninth annual Community Festival, starting each night at 6 PM, on Tuesday, June 21 through Saturday, June 25. Highlights include great food, live music and Bingo in the cafeteria every night; fireworks on Friday night, Shuttle service available from DHS West HS parking area, via Krapf's Buses, to Festival grounds. For more details and to buy discount wristbands, go to: www.stjoesfestival.com.

Good Neighbor Day

Downingtown's 38th annual Good Neighbor Day will be held at Kerr Park on the Fourth of July. The day-long activities begin with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and 5K Freedom Walk at 8 AM, followed by Big Wheel and canoe races, plus a bike decorating contest. Throughout the day you can also enjoy fabulous food, and visit 80-100 craft exhibitors. The events are capped off with a Fireworks display, which starts at dusk. Proceeds from the activities are distributed to these emergency service providers: Alert Fire Co., Minquas Fire Co., Uwchlan Ambulance Corps, East Brandywine Fire Co., Glen Moore Fire Co., and the West Bradford Fire Co. For more details, see: www.goodneighborday.com.

Wall That Heals

Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will play host this summer to The Wall That Heals, a 250-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Part of a national tour, the replica memorial wall and accompanying mobile education center will be on display throughout the day and night, from Thursday, July 28 until Sunday, July 31 at East Brandywine Township Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road. For more details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=74.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

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.