



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. 25

June 30, 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.

No Clip Joint on Sunday, July 3; hope to see you at GND on July 4

The Historical Society's Ashbridge House won't be open for the monthly clipping session on Sunday, July 3 because of the holiday weekend.

However, we hope to see you at our booth on Good Neighbor Day on July 4th at Downingtown's Kerr Park. Marion Piccolomini, author of *World War II and Chester County Pennsylvania*, will be at our booth, between 8:30 and 10:30 AM, signing copies of her book. The book celebrates the resilience and perseverance of Chester County residents in the midst of World War II.

Downingtown area news in early June 1964

Noted below are news items published in local papers 52 years ago:

- The **Downingtown Area Joint Elementary School Board** authorized the condemnation of a 21-acre tract on Broad Run Road, where a new school was to be built in West Bradford. The board also authorized the securing of an architect to design an addition at East Ward School in Downingtown.

- The **Downingtown Woman's Club**, which was organized in 1914, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Arrangements for the anniversary celebration at the Downingtown Motor Inn were handled by Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, Mrs. George Fisher, Mrs. Edgar Hutchison, Mrs. John Fisher, Mrs. Newton Thompson and Mrs. LaRue Frain.

- Newly elected officers of the **Pickering Valley Woman's Club** were Mrs. Ralph Moore, president; Mrs. Paul McCardell, vice president; Mrs. Silas Ireby, secretary; and Mrs. Robert Fetters, treasurer.

- Trustees Edward Moore, Lloyd Johnson and John Trego burned the mortgage on the **Glen Moore Fire Company's** second building, and Fire Chief Tom Reber directed the housing of two pieces of equipment in ceremonies that also included a parade of equipment from 21 fire companies.

- Installed as officers of the Women's Society of Christian Service at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Mrs. Robert Ellis, president; Mrs. William James, vice president; Alice Shoemaker, recording secretary; Mrs. Harry Wickersham, treasurer; Mrs. Hubert Stokes, secretary of missionary education; Mrs. Clifford Queen, secretary of promotion; Mrs. Edward Busby, secretary of children's work; Mrs. William Keeler, secretary of spiritual life; Mrs. Esther Hendry, secretary of promotional material; Mrs. Daniel Place, secretary of local church activities; and Jennie Lowery, remembrance.

- Award winners at **Downingtown Junior High School** included: Fred Gates and Mary Ann Hipple, American Legion Award; and Outstanding Honor Students: seventh graders Clair Koser and Cindy Ward; eighth graders Walter Goncus and Dorothy Griffith; ninth graders, Dave Corry and Sandra Dollar

- Dancers, who were part of the cast in an operetta performed by **Brandywine-Wallace School** students, included: Regina Dorsey, Jill Layne, Allan Earnshaw, Patty Evans, Bradley Livesey, Carl Snyder, Ann Martin and Steve Messner.

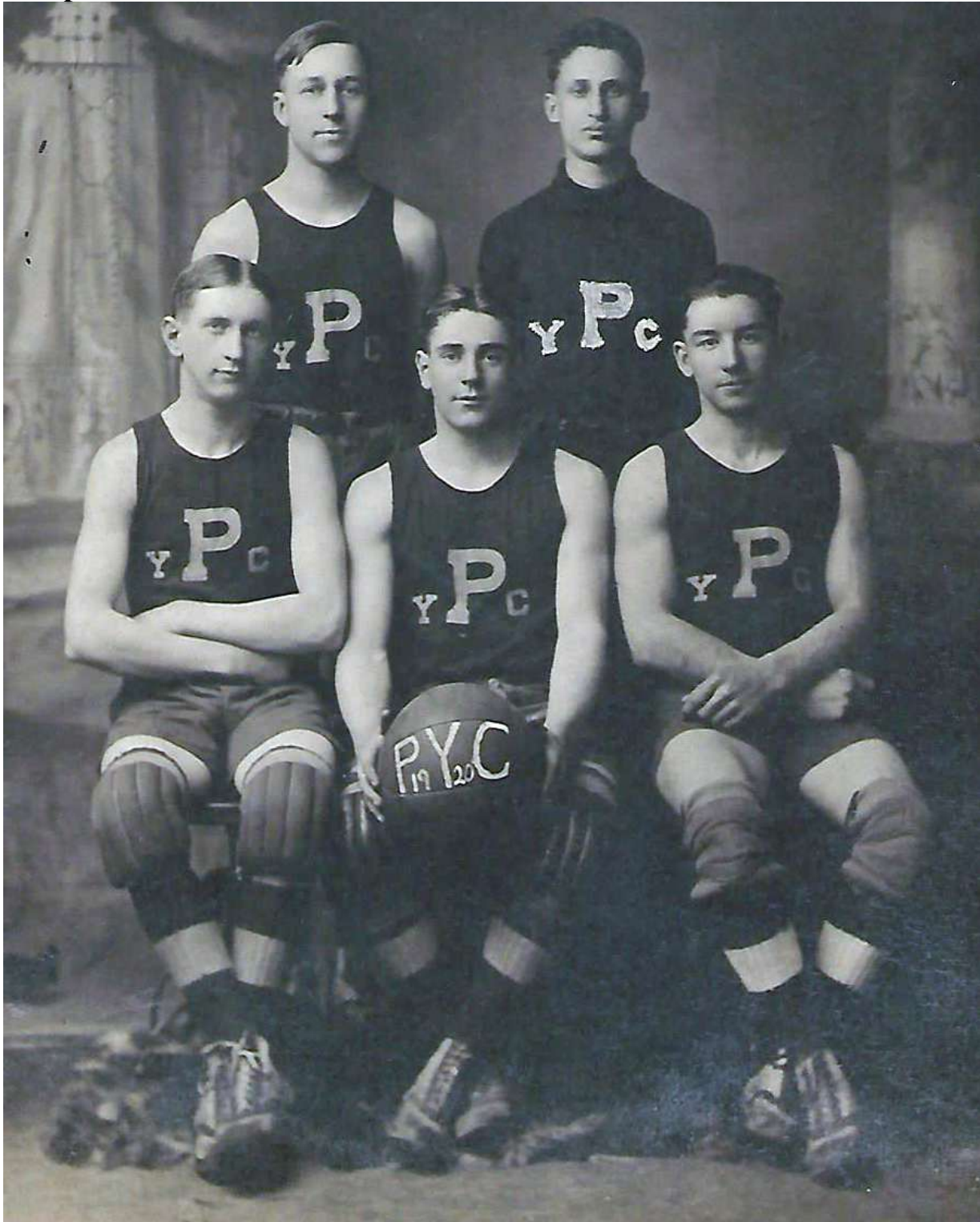
- Officers elected to lead the **DHS Band Fathers** were B.F. Piersol, president; Charles Seibert, vice president; Lambert McGuckin, secretary; and Duer Smedley, treasurer.

- **Brownie Troop 131**, Downingtown, had a mother-daughter covered dish supper, followed by presentation of first-year pins to: Sherry Andress, Melanie Lacey, Cathy Stehman, Janice Wasmuth and Connie Williams.

- Receiving **academic awards at a DHS assembly** were: Michael Dorsey, English, social studies and language; Robert Reyling, mathematics; Janine Davis, science and health-physical education; Patricia Harple, commercial; Clark Bartell, art and health-physical education; William Peppernick, agriculture; Sherry Massimini, music; Curtis Pritchard, industrial arts; and Velma Warren, home economics.

- **Rich DiEugenio**, DHS football and baseball star, received the Hugh "Butch" McDevitt Memorial Award, given annually to the Ches-Mont League's outstanding athlete.

Group Photo of the Week



All of the basketball players in the photo above lived in Downingtown in 1920, but we haven't been able to identify the PYC team they played for that year. The players were, left to right, front row, Clyde Hughes, George Davis, and Dave Weiler; back row, Joe Hertel and Isadore Bloom.

What locals were talking about 88 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the summer of 1928:

- **Michael Murphy's** 156-acre estate in the Milford Mills section of Upper Uwchlan (now part of Marsh Creek State Park) was sold to several Philadelphians for \$45,000. The estate included a stone mansion with 28 rooms and six bathrooms, surrounded by a 3-acre lawn and tennis courts, plus two stone barns where race horses were kept.

(Editor's Note: Those Philadelphians were Max "Boo" Hoff and his gang of bootleggers).

- Robert Ash, president of the new **Downingtown Lions Club**, accepted the charter, which was presented by a district governor at a banquet at the Downingtown Methodist Church.

- There were 43 girls and 18 boys in the senior class that **graduated from DHS** in the 46th annual commencement, held at the Roosevelt Theatre.

- A **kite flying competition** for boys, sponsored by the Downingtown Rotary Club, and a concert by the local boys' Harmonics Band were highlights of Downingtown's Fourth of July activities. The Rotary Club had recently assumed responsibility for the Harmonica Band, and arranged for practices to be held in Borough Hall.

- Downingtown's **Charlie Way**, an All-American halfback when he played for Penn State in 1920, purchased Robert Backenstose's taxi service in the borough.

- The **American Legion Post** was considering the formation of a rifle club, which would include an indoor range for small arms and an outdoor range for heavy caliber rifles.

- Members of the **DHS basketball team**, who received varsity letters at an assembly in June, were George Perry, Orville Magill, Tom Reber, Ted Griffith, Donald White, Irwin Pollock, Allen Holman, Earl Fulton and John Windle.

Brief, but important

1. According to John Kiefel's History Of Downingtown Football Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/594722887247727), Keith Carter, former Whippet end (DHS Class of 2001), has been hired by the Atlanta Falcons as assistant offensive line coach, after spending the 2014 season as the offensive line coach/running game coordinator at San Jose State University. Prior to coaching at San Jose State, Carter spent two seasons as an offensive quality control coach with the Seattle Seahawks. He began his coaching career at his alma mater, UCLA, where he had played four seasons as a tight end, H-back, and fullback.

2. Greg Mascherino recently donated a copy of a printed program for a Memorial and Dedicatory Service, held on September 22, 1918 at the Downingtown Opera House, in recognition of the more than 150 local men who were serving in the military during World War I, which ended in November 1918.

The service was put on by Downingtown's Home Defense Committee, which included Hunter Wills, chairman; A.H. Standley, treasurer; Thomas Parke, secretary; and Dr. L. T. Bremerman, Henry Coates, M.A. Carr, Charles Fairweather, George Kerr, Guyon Miller, Edward Kerr, Frank McGraw, Vinton Philips, W. I. Pollock and Frank Parke.

The printed program also noted that a committee had been established in 1918 to raise money in order to buy an American flag, but it didn't mention where the flag was to be placed. Members of that committee were Charles Walker, Joseph Founds, James Epeheimer, Charles Murray, George Kerr, Austin Moore, Park Plank, Walter Henry and Patsy DiCesare.

Items retrieved from the first editions of the *Blue & Gold* newspaper

Noted below are items found in the first editions of the new DHS student newspaper, the *Blue and Gold*, when it was initially published, during the 1943-44 school year. That was during the World War II era, and 325 former DHS students were serving in the military at the time. The newspaper's contents included these highlights:

- The high school students sold \$7,153.96 worth of **savings bonds and stamps** between September 7 and December 16, 1943. By February 10, 1944, sales reached \$17,040.80.
- **Tony Mattioni**, a football star, didn't play on the DHS basketball team in his senior year because he left for the service two days before Christmas.
- The kids were excited about the new Hillbilly **Band**, which included: Josiah Ashenfelter, harmonica; Robert Cozzone, drums; Leon McCreary and Chester Dowlin, guitar; and Mary Smith, mandolin.
- The **Aeronautics Club** was formed in early 1944. In addition to building models of military aircraft, the club's activities included a visit to an airport. Officers were George Windolph, president; Hibbert Wells, vice president; William Valocchi, secretary; and William Lyman, treasurer.
- The **Junior Red Cross Club** was established to make afghans for service people at Valley Forge Army Hospital. Proceeds from dances, sale of candy and pennants at football games were used to purchase wool for the afghans.

Vintage Ad of the Week

One Cent Sale At The Sweetland Stores

Home - Made Coconut and Lady Fingers

One Pound, 40c - Two Pounds, 41c - Booster Day Only

GOOD HOME - MADE ICE CREAM and CANDY

The Sweetland Stores

121 E. Lancaster Ave. Penna. House Bldg

This ad was originally published in the October 7, 1926 edition of the *Archive*.

When Larkin Bridge was moved from Milford Mills



Paul Backenstose is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the site in this photo as the 60-foot-long Larkin Bridge, which was originally built in 1854 near Milford Mill, a hamlet in Upper Uwchlan, where it had crossed over Marsh Creek, a tributary of Brandywine Creek, and was rebuilt there in 1881. In 1972, the bridge was first moved a short distance before Milford Mills was flooded over by the lake at Marsh Creek State Park. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. After Upper Uwchlan acquired the bridge in 1998, it was relocated to the trail path near the Byers Station development on Graphite Mine Road.

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'd like to receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

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.goodneighboraday.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. The Wall will take a one-hour escorted route beginning at 10 AM on July 27, from Calvary Fellowship Church on Route 113, Lionville into Downingtown, where it will stop for a few minutes for wreath placement at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park, and then continue on to East Brandywine Community Park. For more details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=74.

Bats For Matt Softball Tournament

Softball teams that want to participate in the 2016 Bats For Matt Tournament--to be held Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 on the Downingtown Little League Field on Manor Avenue--can enter by sending an email to: BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com, KrazzieLazzie224@yahoo.com or Bigciarlone@gmail.com. Entries close July 10. For more details, see: www.batsformatt.com/ or www.facebook.com/BatsForMatt/.

Controversial Presidential Elections

Ross Kershey, historian and professor, will speak on Controversial Presidential Elections at 7 PM Tuesday, July 19 at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The free program is sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society, and the public is welcome.

Give Something Back Day Golf Outing

A golf outing will be held at Whitford Country Club on Monday, July 18 in support of the Fund for Chester County and the Whitford Charitable Fund. For more details on sponsorships fees and the day's events, check out: events@chescofc.org.

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: JPCheryl@verizon.net.