



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.

What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items original papers published in local papers in the latter part of February 1964:

- A requirement that construction of an **addition to the high school** had to include a planetarium was eliminated from the plans, after nine members of the Downingtown Joint High School Board met with state education officials in Harrisburg. Action on the expansion project—which also included 18 classrooms, an auxiliary gym and a library—had been delayed because of the local board’s opposition to the state-mandated planetarium. The school board also increased **starting teachers’ annual salaries** with bachelor’s degrees to \$4,500.
- Some 330 members of Local 414, United Papermakers and Paperworkers Union, returned to work at the **Downingtown Paper Co.**, following a 48-day strike. The terms of the settlement included “a two-year contract, with a wage increase of one per cent the first year and three per cent the second year,” according to union officials. The agreement also called for DOPACO to – pay all premiums for employee and dependent hospital- surgical insurance.
- A \$30,000 fire destroyed the **Cresmer Fence Co.** facility at the intersection of Route 30 and Whitford Road in West Whiteland. The three-story, 200-foot-long, wood structure originally had been a chicken hatchery.
- Leaders of **Marshallton’s Cub Pack 152**, who were honored for their service, included Norman Geddes, cubmaster; Harry Verngren, committee chairman; Clifford Queen, treasurer; and den mothers Mrs. Francis Wood, Mrs. John Sellers, Mrs. Joseph Kirkner, Mrs. Robert Siter, Mrs. Donald Michnuk and Mrs. Frank Bates,
- The **DHS girls’ basketball team** ended its season with a 29-25 win over Conshohocken. Liz Von Hacht led the Whippette offense with 18 points. Their season record was 6-2.
- These members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were nominated for leadership positions: Earl Radcliffe, president; Steve MacNeill, first vice president; Bill Balderston, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; and Lloyd Swarner, treasurer. Nominated for director were Charles Gebron, Ches Hall, Bob Romig, Hallan Usher, Andy Kissh, Don White and William Kline.
- Following a 102-44 loss to Phoenixville, in which the **DHS boys’ basketball squad** made only 18 of 68 (26 per cent) of its shots, the Whippets bounced back against Spring-Ford by making 58 percent of their shots in a 69-42 win over the Rams.
- Robert Worthington, a Downingtown Junior High student, won the oratorical contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Optimist Club**. Other contestants were David Findley, David Corry, Val DiEuliis, and James Rice.
- Members of the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church**, who traveled to Philadelphia to see the Chinese New Year parade, were Andy, Ginny, Bobby and Timmy Gotwals; Jeanne Marie and Ronald Thomas; Louise Hanley; Mary Louise Schlimme; Lois Grubb; Kenneth Yocum; Donald Fisher, Tommy Schwartzentruber and Pete McBall.
- DHS students who earned **typing speed certificates** included: Rodger Geisel, Patricia Harple and Barbara Whitney, whose score was 50 words per minute; and Barbara Yohn, Carol Sinex, Audrey Strouse, Nancy Martin, Darlene Kimes, Beverly Mitchell, Joan Morrison, Margaret MacDougall, Marlene Harple and Betty Spickler, typed at 40 words per minute. And **shorthand speed awards** for taking dictation and transcribing notes at 100 words per minute were presented to Elizabeth Turner and Susan Eachus.

It's Fairview Presbyterian Church in Glen Moore



Brenda Lewis was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as Fairview Presbyterian Church in Glen Moore. The photo was taken in the first decade of the 20th Century. The first church, built on land donated by James Todd, was dedicated in 1840, when there were 20 members in the congregation. A new church, using materials from the original building, was built in 1871. At that time, John Wanamaker, Philadelphia department store magnate, donated the large steeple bell which continues to be used today. Pew rent was discontinued in 1900, replaced by an envelope system. In 1913, stained glass windows were installed behind the pulpit, and stone posts and front gates were added. The old, sagging steeple was replaced by a block tower in 1927-28. A Model-T Ford was purchased for the pastor in 1920. And Rev. David Stewart was the church's longest-serving pastor, from 1924 until 1951. The church tower was removed in 1958 and replaced by a new belfry and steeple. The Rev. Dr. Mark Atkinson is the current pastor.

Dr. Diane DiEuliis to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: This is the first of four profiles on those persons who will be inducted into DHS Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. The induction will take place at the Alumni Association's 132nd annual banquet on Saturday, April 16, at the Downingtown Country Club. You can access more info on the banquet via: www.downingtowntalumni.org/banquet.html.

Diane DiEuliis, Ph.D., Class of 1984, is the Deputy Director for Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a position she has held since August, 2011. In that position, she is responsible for assisting in the coordination of policy and strategic planning for components of the Office of the ASPR and directly supporting the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy.

Prior to joining the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. DiEuliis was the Assistant Director for Life Sciences and Behavioral and Social Sciences in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President. During her four-year tenure at the White House, she was responsible for coordinating health issues among Federal departments and agencies, and was involved in developing policy in areas such as biosecurity, biosafety, human subjects, synthetic biology, Federal scientific collections, public access, and biotechnology. She also managed portfolios in the Science of Science Policy (devoted to measuring the outcomes of Federal investments in Science and Technology), and Research Business Models (devoted to streamlining administrative requirements in the grants and contracts process). She also worked to help coordinate agency response to public health issues such as the H1N1 flu.

Before working at OSTP, Dr. DiEuliis was a program director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she managed a diverse portfolio of neuroscience research in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. She completed a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from the University of Delaware, and completed her postdoctoral research in the NIH Intramural research program, where she focused on cellular and molecular neuroscience.

Brief but important

- Our Ashbridge House headquarters will not be open on Easter Sunday.
- Members of the 1963 St. Anthony's Lodge swimming team, who were honored at a banquet, included: Rhys Williams, Judy Reutter, Kathy and Shirley Pomento, James Perella, Donna Capriotti, Joann and Robert Mento and Cheryl Valocchi. Dave Orth was the head coach, and Mike McShane and Ethan Berry were the assistant coaches.
- After she saw that the What and Where Is This? photo in the March 10 edition of the Hist-O-Gram was an interior shot of Charles News Agency in Downingtown, Caroline Ash provided us with some info we never knew or couldn't recall. She said that her father, Herb Ash, used to take Caroline and her sister, Sissy, to Sam Charles's store back in the 1960s, after they attended church on a Sunday morning, for a treat—milkshakes and peanut butter crackers. The milkshakes, made with Jane Logan ice cream, were prepared at the soda fountain (without stools) in the back of the store. Anyone remember who was the soda jerk at that soda fountain?

Group Photo of the Week:



This photo of fifth graders, who attended Beaver Creek School in Downingtown in 1969-1970, was donated to the Historical Society by Cindy Starr-Wittman. Pictured, left to right, are: first row, Chris MacDonald, Eric Shepard, Kathy Reinhart, Brian Girard, Richard Miles, Robin Dunn, Chad McNeil, Linda Chicosky; second row, Terry Norris, Mike Delio, Dinah Ferguson, Steve Archer, Cynthia Fury, Andrew Schwartz, Bryan Byer, Peter Hoeflich, Deb Porta, unidentified, Diane Urban, Teal Burns, Mrs. Bittle (teacher); third row, Miss Klinger (student teacher), Joseph Pierce, Karen Protivnak, Kathy Stringer, Donna Zelinski, Philip Mento, Sam Carbo, Brian Francella, Lori Gregor, unidentified, Maryanne Fox, Anthony Sweeney.

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www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

Gala Opening . . . Tonight

THE NEW TERRACE

ON THE BANKS OF VALLEY CREEK

AT EXTON LODGE

Exton, Pa.

Tonight, August 27

Featuring the Talented Artistry of
FRANKIE ALTER on the PIANO
and HAMMOND ORGAN
and Presenting our Newest Find
MARY GRADEN, Vocalist
Also JOHNNY WILLIAMS TRIO

"DANCING UNDER THE STARS"

Continuous Entertainment

In 1939, Harold Martin built the Exton Lodge at the southwest corner of Routes 100 and 30, better known as the Exton Crossroads, in West Whiteland. After it was razed in the early 1980s, a Denny's Restaurant was built on the site. Martin was recognized as the Godfather of the Exton Bypass. This ad was published in the *Daily Local News* in August 1948.

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.

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

Book Sale

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will hold a spring book sale on Friday April 15 from 5-7:30 PM and on Saturday April 16 from 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be a wide selection of adult fiction and non-fiction, young adult and children's books, audio books, movies and music CDs. Donations of gently used children's books, adult books, DVDs, CDs and books on tape for the sale are now being accepted. No textbooks, encyclopedias or magazines, please. Donations can be dropped off at the library, through April 9 during regular business hours. For more details, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lectures at 3:30 PM on the Sundays noted: **April 17**, at Bondsville Mill Park, 1647 Bondsville Road, Bryan Thompson Nowak, Horticulturalist at Morris Arboretum, will take you on nature walk and sheds some light on our local landscape; **May 15**, Mathew Kalos will discuss what he's uncovered in his archaeological digs in Chester County, at the East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville.

Readers on the Run

The Downingtown Library's Readers on the Run road races will be conducted on Green Street in the borough on Saturday, April 9. They will start at 8 AM with a 5K run, followed by a 1-mile race at 8:15, and then a 100-yard dash for kids at 9 AM. Entry fees for the 5K and Walk are \$25 before April 2 and \$30 on race day. The Kids' Dash costs \$10. To register online and for more info, access: www.racemenu.com/readers.

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.

True Story of Amelia Earhart's Disappearance

Richard (Ric) Gillespie, historian, author, executive director of TIGHAR and aeronautic researcher will present Finding Amelia - The True Story of the Earhart Disappearance in a West Caln Historical Society program at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 19 at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The program is free and open to all.

Drug Take-Back Day

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 30. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Alert's Golf Outing

Downingtown'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/.

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.