



## 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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# What Was Going On?



We suspect that almost everyone knows that the site in the photo above is East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, just west of Brandywine Avenue. And yes, the industrial building on the right was the Bicking Paper Co. mill when the photo was taken. What we're looking for is someone who recognizes what the workmen were doing in the middle of the street. The first person who correctly identifies what they were doing will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## What area residents were talking about in early March 1964

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

- Downingtown Council voted to adopt a **\$10 occupational privilege tax** that would provide an additional \$28,000 to the borough's coffers. But Borough Council had several other

more controversial issues to deal with at its monthly meeting. They included: the possibility of having a small (5-7 beds) emergency medical facility, which would cost about \$250,000 annually to operate; and hiring a full-time health and housing inspector.

- **Upper Uwchlan Township** residents were in an uproar about the planned Marsh Creek reservoir and park project. The township's supervisors announced at several meetings that they planned to seek a preliminary injunction in order to limit the powers of the Chester County Water Resources Authority. They were particularly opposed to the "absolute miss-use of eminent domain" to condemn homes in the Milford Mills area in order to create a "playground." Township officials also were miffed about the "high-handed manner and arrogance" displayed by State Department of Forests and Waters, which had failed to discuss the project's "ill effects" with the township.

- **Herbert Lee**, who graduated from DHS in 1952, was named the high school's head track coach. He replaced Charles Ax. Lee had earned a bachelor's and master's degrees at West Chester State College, where he had been a standout on the football team. He also was a science teacher at Beaver Creek School.

- Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** who received awards for their entries in a sewing contest were Mrs. Robert Kaster, first; Mrs. Thomas McNeil, second; and Mrs. David Kohlhas, third.

- After the **West Bradford School Board** had considered sites for a new elementary school in the township for 20 months, the Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board appointed a committee to start negotiating with the owner of 21.5 acres on Broad Run Road.

- Members of the cast in the student production of "**Damn Yankee**" at DHS were Irvin Yeaworth, Janet Strawsnyder, Sally Pyle, Edwin Conner, Linda Pyle, Robert Bruton, Shirley Robinson, Gene Martin, James Sanders, Carol French, William Uhler, Sara Campbell, Ruth Travaglini, Margaret Woodland, Sandra Irwin, Steve Meacham, Terry Knox and Stephen Mascherino.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who earned promotions in rank included: Tenderfoot—Robert Baker, Gary Cross, Danny Hayes, Gary Morinelli and David Coover; Second Class—James Rowan; Star—James Young.

- Thieves looted two borough restaurants on East Lancaster Avenue. Inez Bachai, owner, said more than \$150 was stolen from the **Downingtown Dining Room**, and Nicholas Mazzi reported that an undetermined amount of cash was stolen in a break-in at **Lena's Steak Shop**.

- First graders at **Beaver Creek School** who participated in an assembly on "Traffic Safety" included: John Yanetti, Linda Stallard, Linda and Coralee Felegy, Beverly Failor, Bruce March, Nicky Madrigale, Debbie Thompson, Robin Whiteman, Mary McDonald, Billy Carpenter, Colleen Morris, Tyrone Banks, Kathleen Porreca, Kathy Wharton, Billy Hayes and Stephen Gbur.

- DHS seniors selected to attend the third annual **Lukens Steel Co.** Student Management Conference were Francis Strouse and Walter Conner.

*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.*

### **Group Photo of the Week:**



This serious looking group was the Downingtown School Board in 1943. They were, left to right: President Belle Hutchison, George Nixdorf, Leland Wilson, Dr. Carl Dent and Robert Ash.

## **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](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

# Locals celebrated new Borough Hall & undefeated football team 90 years ago

The fall of 1926 was a joyous season for Downingtown residents, because that's when the newly constructed Borough Hall was dedicated, a consolidated Post Office was established in the new municipal building, and the undefeated DHS football squad was the mythical county champion, according to articles in the *Downingtown Archive*.

The **Borough Hall** dedication ceremonies on the morning of October 9, 1926 were followed by a **Firemen's Parade** in the afternoon, before new apparatus were housed at the town's two fire companies. Then there was a **grand parade** in the evening, with 10 bands and hundreds of marchers, who included members of local Scout troops; students from borough schools; representatives and equipment from area fire departments; members of the DAR, American Legion, VFW, Odd Fellows, Redmen, POSA, Moose Lodge, St. Anthony's Lodge, local industries' floats and area motorcycle clubs. Marshalls for the parade's five divisions were John Sheridan, Horace Carpenter, Martin Binder, Graham Bentley and Anthony DiLuigi. Paul Dague was the grand marshal.

The *Archive* didn't cover the **DHS football team's** exploits in the early part of the 1926 season, although Downingtown had defeated Royersford, the Lower Merion reserves and Collingdale. But when the Papertowners beat Coatesville for the first time since 1918, that accomplishment caught the weekly newspaper's attention. The fact that "Cap" Wando's last-minute, extra point kick sailed between the uprights—following a tricky Griffith-to-Mento pass play for a TD—enabled Downingtown to defeat the Steel City boys 7-6.

Downingtown followed that upset win by beating Conshohocken, Berwyn and Spring City, plus a scoreless tie with West Chester, and a 6-3 victory in the **annual Thanksgiving morning fray** with the DHS Alumni team.

Although there was **no official county championship** at the time, the DHS Athletic Council showed its appreciation for the team's accomplishments by having a turkey dinner at the Downingtown Woman's Club. And the players were guests of the Coatesville Auditorium to see "One Minute to Play," a silent film in which All-American running back "Red" Grange had a role.

## We need volunteers for Clip/Paste sessions

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, April 3 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, April 12. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

## **It's at 424 Washington Ave., Downingtown**



Mark Myers is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as 424 Washington Ave. in Downingtown. Mark should know because his family lived there for 21 years, from 1965-1986. The best part of growing up there, besides a short walk to East Ward School, across the street from his house, was the field that's still part of East Ward's playground. Mark says he enjoyed playing in many pick-up basketball and baseball games there. Larry Meredith, who provided the photo, lived at 424 Washington Ave and later at 417 Washington Avenue, as a youngster in the 1940s and 1950s.

### **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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://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](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

Vintage Ad of the Week:

# July Clearance Sale

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Starting Monday, July 19 -- Ending July 24

## Snader's Place, E. Downingtown

**20 Per Cent Off on all Sporting Goods, Fishing Tackle, Bathing Goods, Trunks, Suit Cases, Etc.**

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**30 Per Cent. Off On All Our Men's and Women's SPRING COATS !**

Shoes Reduced	Specials in Hosiery
150 Pairs Ladies' Shoes.....\$1.50 200 Pairs Ladies' Shoes..... 2.00 250 Pairs Ladies' Shoes..... 2.50 140 Pairs Ladies' Shoes..... 3.00 (Just About Half-Price) 375 Men's Oxfords.....20% Off 175 Children's Shoes .....20% Off 150 Small Child's Shoes..... 20% Off 375 Men's, Women's and Child- ren's Sneaks..... 20% Off	700 prs Men's Fancy Hose .....40c 300 prs Ladies' Silk Hose.....40c (all shades) A Big Line of Sport Sox, special for this week only.....10c up 75 doz. Men's Half Hose ..9c, 3 for 25c 80 pr Men's Hose, special.....2 pr 25c 22 doz Ladies' 35c Hose, while they last .....3 prs 50c

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**94 MEN'S EXTRA FINE SUITS . \$12.00 to \$20.00**

REALLY WORTH \$18.00 to \$45.00

**Palm Beach and Mohair Suits . . . \$11.00**

180 Men's 75c Blue Work Shirts 60c. 240 Men's \$1.00 Blue Work Shirts 75c. 72 pr. \$1.25 Khaki Pants..... \$1.00 180 pr. \$1.75 Khaki Pants .....\$1.25 240 pr. \$1.75 Dark Work Pants \$1.15 90 pr. \$1.50 Heavy 220 Denim Over- alls, \$1.00 \$2.50 Headlight, King Kord and Lee Overalls and Blouses, \$1.75 800 pr. Work and Dress Pants 20% Off	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p><b>20 Per Cent. Off On All DRESS and SPORT SHIRTS</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p><b>30% Off Men's Straw Hats</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>25% Off All Sweaters, Lumber Jacks, Sport Coats, Knickers, for the whole family, and many other specials.</b></p> </div>
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**ONE WEEK ONLY -- JULY 19th to 24th**

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**W. A. SNADER, The Clothier**

**East Lancaster Ave.                      East Downingtown**

This ad was originally published in the July 22, 1926 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## **Pamela Foy to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame**

*Editor's Note: This is the second 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](http://www.downingtowntalumni.org/banquet.html). Also, the DHS Class of 1971 will hold its 45th reunion at the Alumni Association banquet on April 16. Contact Nancy Mattioni McFalls at [nmcfalls@comcast.net](mailto:nmcfalls@comcast.net) if you have not received an invitation.*

Pamela M Foy, DHS Class of 1974, started distinguishing herself in the field of radiology, at Coatesville Hospital's School of Radiology, continuing her education at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, and earning a Bachelor's degree from Widener University and a Master's degree from The Ohio State University. She holds certificates in a variety of areas of radiology and sonography and has contributed dozens of articles in various professional journals and chapters on ultrasound and sonography to many textbooks. Over the past 35 years, Pam has made presentations to professional organizations throughout the country, particularly on factors of pre-natal sonography.

Pam has lectured at the State University of New York and Thomas Jefferson University in diagnostic sonography and is currently a Clinical Associate Professor for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the Imaging Manager for OB Ultrasound.

She has been married to Bruce Nesselroth for 32 years and is the proud mother of Caitlyn, an attorney at the Ohio Attorney General's office, and Meghan, who will finish her Pharmacology degree in May 2017.

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

### ***Art Gala & Auction***

Downingtown Community Education Foundation, in cooperation with the School District's art teachers, will have an Art Gala & Auction at the Dane Décor Furniture Store on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. The Gala will include displays of artwork created by students in grades K-12 as well as an art auction of items donated by talented students, teachers and local artists. A variety of mediums, including painting, ceramics, photography, glass, metal and wood, will be represented. From 5-6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5, there will be a complimentary viewing of the student art work. for the community. Children are welcome to attend. And from 6-8:30 PM on Wednesday, April 6, there will be a ticketed event, with hors d'oeuvres and drinks from local restaurants and great art to view and buy. For more details, see: [www.dasd.org/domain/1510](http://www.dasd.org/domain/1510).

### ***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](http://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/](http://www.alertgolfouting.org/).

### ***East Brandywine Golf Outing***

The 5th annual East Brandywine Fire & Police Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 9. Sponsored by and held at Applecross Country Club. There are still available opportunities for sponsors. There also will be an auction and raffle opportunities. Additional information can be found at: [www.ebfc49.org](http://www.ebfc49.org).

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