



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. 17

May 5, 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 36 years ago

Noted below are news items that were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of May 1980:

- Founded in 1905, the **Downingtown Industrial School** was celebrating its 75th anniversary. The school was established on 110 acres of farmland off Route 322 in East Brandywine, after John Trower, a Philadelphia caterer who was believed to be the wealthiest Negro in America at the time, and Rev. William Creditt, his Philadelphia pastor, made a \$5,000 down payment. The two men made that investment because they were concerned about the plight of black boys and girls whose families had migrated to northern cities from the South. The boarding school, which initially focused on teaching farming skills, was patterned along the lines of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The school's neighbors weren't thrilled in 1915, when the school started accepting adjudicated teenagers. However, local residents rallied to help the

struggling institution after a series of fires in 1947 destroyed the building housing classrooms and a dormitory. The school shut down in 1983.

- Male exotic dancers were attracting standing-room-only audiences at **Tee's Pub**, on Boot Road, East Caln. And the rowdy girls-night-out crowd (often armed with dollar bills for strategically placed "tip") included at least one women's group from a local church.

- Borough residents were encouraged to show their support for the appointment of Zeke **Osborne** as Downingtown Police Chief in a newspaper ad paid for by many local businesses.

- **West Bradford Township** requested that the state Department of Environmental Resources shut down the Strasburg Landfill in neighboring Newlin Township. The access road leading to the landfill was located in West Bradford, and Chester County Judge Leonard Sugarman had ruled that the landfill was in violation of West Bradford's zoning ordinance when trucks hauling waste travelled over a private road in a residential subdivision in the township to reach the dump site.

- Although an incinerator to burn insolvents had been installed and a two-year contract with the United Paperworkers and Papermakers Union had been signed, the 300 employees at the **Milprint** plant in Downingtown were notified of a shutdown in the near future.

- Downingtown **Meals On Wheels** volunteers, who were honored for their seven years of service, included Florence Creamer, Katie Rosenlieb, Dorothy Laird, Rose Pawlik, Marikay Bizal, Ita Zaferes, Mary Lee Caggiano, Jean Greulich, Marion Felton, Louise Sapper and Betty Longenecker.

- Jim McClung, representing the new **Chester Springs Library** presented a framed copy of an 1873 map of West Pikeland to the township supervisors in appreciation for their support. The library was selling 250 copies of the map, which included farms and buildings in the township and names of their owners, as a fundraiser for the library. The library also planned to sell updated and re-issued copies of Col. Clifton Lisle's "The History of West Pikeland."

- Members of **Cub Pack 23**, Downingtown, who earned badges included Brian Petty, Clarence Martin, Ronnie Donnon, Eddie Schroeder, Gregg Hauptert, Fred Evans, Chris Tyson, Keith Sciarretta, Bob Fuchs, Matt Duca, John Seel, Jason Hill, David Coover, Brian King, Jamie Mendenhall, Bruce Bredeckas and Sean Morris.

- Honored at the **Downingtown Fire Department's** annual banquet were: Brian Rambo, the Alert's outstanding firefighter; Mike Miller, the Minquas' outstanding firefighter; and Charles Randy Moore, outstanding member of the Minquas Ambulance Corps.

- Elected as vestry officers at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were John Gillooly, senior warden; Bill Hildebeitel, junior warden; Sam Corliss, treasurer; and Anne Buell, secretary. Committee appointments included: Gordon Carpenter, finance; Clarence Mitchell, property; Steve Barnett, membership; Jack Henry, program; and Russ Fafette, Christian education;

- DHS students who were nominated for the state **Governor's School for the Arts** were Ed Otto, dance; Bruce Schelkopf, Ann Golding, and Sean Brown, photography; James Pike, art; and James Price, music.

- First communicants at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Brooke Benedix, Timothy Kennedy, Matthew Horn, William Lammey, Christopher Neill, Jessica Robillard, Derek Wood and Mark Baker. And the confirmation class at **Hopewell United Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, included: Kim Matter, Debbie Carey, Janice Weyman, Michelle Thomas, Allyson Semple, Peter Krum, Sherry Pennell, Kim Bullock, Faith Faller and Kelly Anderson.

- Mrs. David Kohlhas was elected president of the **Downingtown Woman's Club**. Also elected were: Mrs. Philip Manno, first vice president; Mrs. Jay Lammey, second vice president; Mrs. Harold Thompson, recording secretary; Mrs. Alison Hallowell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Raymond Schollenberger, treasurer.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 110 Wildbrier Drive, East Brandywine, \$84,500; 505 East Lakeside Drive, West Whiteland, \$65,00; 415 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$42,900; 1399 Steeplechase Road, West Bradford, \$87,500; And 33 Downing Avenue, Downingtown, \$71,000.

- Officers elected to lead the **Auxiliary of VFW Post 475** were Nancy Baldwin, president; Sue Pulcher, senior vice president; Louisa Wilgis, vice president; Mary Lynam, chaplain; Elaine Law, conductress; Jeanette Beam, guard; Louise Wilmot, treasurer; Helen Moyer, trustee; and Pauline Klink, secretary.

- The **DHS boys' tennis team** had never won a Ches-Mont tennis championship until Frank Englund captured the singles crown. Chris Blank came in fifth. Then Englund and Blank teamed up to win the league's doubles championship.

- Coach Charlie Selcher's **DHS track squad** won two more Ches-Mont meets. In a 109-41 win over Pottsgrove and a 122-28 victory over Spring-Ford, Ricke Stonewall and Bruce Tiller both were triple winners, and Barry Boggs and Larry Williams each won two events. And the 400-meter relay team of Brent Sweeney, Reese Hunt, Tiller and Stonewall established a new DHS record (43.7 seconds) at the Penn Relays.

- The **DHS softball team** garnered three more wins. Laura Kulkis held Pottsgrove to three hits and had two hits as the Whippets beat the Falcons 12-2. And Julie Sten rapped out two hits and two RBIs. And Dianne Repp gave up just two hits, and Melanie Massimini knocked in the winning run, in a 3-2 win over Marple-Newtown. Judy O'Connell gave up only one hit and Bonnie Oberteuffer got two hits, as the Whippets clobbered West Chester East 11-2.

- Jimmy Poluch caught the first and largest carp, and the first trout, at the Fish Rodeo, sponsored by the **Downingtown Sportsmen's Association**. Other winners were Bobby Sarmento, first and largest perch; Jim Evoli, first and largest crappie; Dan Orloski, largest blue gill; and Buddy Coleman, first blue gill.

- **Bob Trauger** tossed a no-hitter as the DHS Whippets white-washed St. Pius X 9-0. The Whippets pounded out eight hits, including triples by Dave Kucera and Tom Quinn, and a double by John Vandenberg.

- The team of Vern Shaw and Dave Brown came in first in the running and canoeing biathlon competition at the two-day **Lyndell Festival**. The team of Nick Giunta and Dale Krapf placed second in the race which attracted 90 participants, said Tom Skaloda, director. Richard DiRocco and Penn Fry teamed up to win the biathlon's junior division.

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.

It was Glen Moore's Post Office and a barber shop



Bonnie Radford and Jan Bednarchik are both truly perceptive scholars because they each correctly identified the small building in the photo above, located at Park Lane and Creek Road in Wallace Township. According to research done by Jane Davidson, the building was constructed in 1899 by David Byerly, Glenmoore's postmaster, who was the highest bidder at a sheriff sale on a William Yocum's property, which also included a two-and-one-half story residence. Byerly, who later was a Chester County commissioner, owned the property until 1944. The building continued to be Glenmoore's Post Office until 1916, when postmaster Elmer Dunwoody moved his office into his store in the village. During World War I, the building was used as a Red Cross headquarters. And it became a Post Office again when William Irey became the postmaster in 1922. In 1929, Oscar Miller built an addition to his store in the village and the Post Office was moved there by Irey. In later years, the building served as Edward Deputy's and then Dick Houck's barber shop, and TV repair business. The Post Office was moved to the Glen Moore Fire Co. facility on Fairview Road in the late 1950s. The Post Office was moved into its own quarters on Fairview Road in 1997. Most of this information was provided by Wallace Township Historical Commission members Bonnie Radford and John Miller, and archivist Sandy Brannan.

Local news items originally published in May 1955

Here are some news snippets published in *The Archive* 61 years ago:

- Charter members of the newly formed **Uwchlan Township Civic Association** included Mr. and Mrs. William Meredith, Mr. and Mrs. Philo Farnsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Windle, Mr. and Mrs. Louis D’Ginto, Col. and Mrs. Horace Shelmire, Charles Martin, Robert Bicking, Forest Abel, Edith Oberholser and Mrs. Paul Otter.
- Members of the **Downingtown Woman’s Club** who were appointed to the Arbor Day Committee included Mrs. Merton Yerger, Mrs. Kurt Wandel, Mrs. Clifford Orr, Mrs. Herman Kramm and Mrs. Gordon Carpenter.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 181**, Downingtown, who toured the Philadelphia Airport were Patricia Daller, Patricia Dukeman, Jeanne Emery, Beatrice Fernando, Jane Moore, Jean and Carol Shisler, and Sandra Hadfield.
- Mrs. Jean William Keen was elected president of the **Downingtown Junior Woman’s Club**. Also elected were Mrs. Thomas Greenleaf, first vice president; Mrs. Leon Williams, second vice president; Mrs. Francis Merkt, recording secretary; Mrs. George Loomis, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Travaglini, treasurer.
- Elected as officers of the **Glen Moore Improvement Society** were Ralph Myers, president; Wade Scott, vice president; Mrs. Ivan Barclay, secretary; and Mrs. Gilbert Houck, treasurer.

Vintage Ad of the Week:

Downingtown’s Newest Night Spot

BOB’S BAR & GRILL

127 E. LANCASTER AVE.

Bar ’B Que Chicken
Spare Ribs
Tasty Sandwiches
All Brands of Beer

FRIDAY SPECIAL

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| STEAMED CLAMS | 3 doz. \$120 |
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FOR RESERVATIONS OR TAKE OUT ORDERS
CALL AN 9-8866

Robert A. Hughes, Mgr.

This ad was originally published in the August 27, 1959 edition of *The Archive*.

Congratulations Francine Dague



Francine Dague, the Historical Society's treasurer, was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Downingtowner-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce last week at the organization's 71st annual dinner, held at the Downingtowner Country Club. Mike Glover, right, president of the Chamber, presented the award. Francine chaired the Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle for three years, and she took over the treasurer's position in January. And although she has been a Downingtowner resident for just five years, Francine has taken on many local philanthropic responsibilities and raised a total of about \$400,000. Her major fundraising activities have included: Readers on the Run (a road race) and Links for the Library (a golf tournament) for the Downingtowner Library; sleeping in an outside Philadelphia parking lot overnight to help her team raise \$275,000 for Covenant House; and she helped to raise over \$50,000 in goods and services for the House of the Sparrow's five-apartment house, for women between the ages of 55 and 62, in Coatesville. She was nominated by Phil Dague, her devoted husband and a borough councilman, who also is a member of the Historical Society board of directors. The Chamber also honored Victory Brewing Co. (Business of the Year Award) and Mark Kochanowsky, owner of A to Z Appliance repair, (Merit Award).

Brief but important

- Doug Bennett, former Downingtown School District music teacher and marching band director, who's enjoying retirement in the Charlotte, NC, area, responded to our query in last week's Hist-O-Gram about the whereabouts of the **Hammond organ** and chimes system which were installed as a post-World War II memorial in the auditorium of the Junior-Senior High School. In an email, Doug wrote:

"As I recall, the organ did not survive the 1976 renovation (when the building was a Junior High) too well and became unusable. There was a plaque located near the organ that signified its importance as a memorial. Therefore, we chose not to discard it, but let it remain in the auditorium as a reminder of its original significance. The chimes, were originally located on stage, but were rendered unusable since they were operated by the organ. Mrs. Maier (choral director at the time) and I decided to refurbish the chimes, restrung them, and enabled them to be used manually. As I remember, we used them with the band program for many years in lieu of purchasing a set of orchestra chimes."

- In case you missed it, check out www.facebook.com/notes/mike-tauss/donald-goes-to-downingtown/10207165084940108, which is Michael Tauss's reaction to a tweet presidential candidate **Donald J. Trump** sent last week, while he and his entourage were travelling through the borough, after making an appearance at West Chester University. Trump's tweet, which included a photo of the old DOPCA facility on Brandywine Avenue, got national coverage.

- Emily Windle has donated many of the things to the Historical Society, including numerous publications about local history, which her late husband, Spencer, collected. One of the most unique books Mrs. Windle gave us was a copy of "**The Credit Experience Guide**," published ca. 1910 by the Merchants Mercantile Agency of Pittsburgh, PA. The 180-page Guide listed the credit-worthiness of males and their occupations of residents in several Chester County communities, including Downingtown. Mr. Windle's copy had been used by William Mittel, whose Downingtown grocery store was located at 203 W. Lancaster Ave. The Guide's credit rating categories, based on participating firms' credit experience with each local customer, were: prompt pay; fair pay; slow pay; cash customers with me; considered honest, but unfortunate circumstances prevented paying me; and would request cash. And when an asterisk was printed beside a name, it indicated that person was "colored."

Join us at our clipping session on Tuesday evening

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, May 10. The session, 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. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Group Photo of the Week:



The secretarial staff at DHS in 1977 included, left to right: Mrs. Shearer, Miss Brookover, Mrs. Geist, Mrs. Tagland, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Klinger and Mrs. Skiles.

Access to Hist-O-Grams we published last month

If you happened to miss any of the Hist-O-Grams published in April , you can access them via:

April 7: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/April%207%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 14: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2014%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 21: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2021%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

April 28: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2028%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

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.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Nite at the Races

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade Committee will have a Kentucky Derby Nite at The Races at 6 PM on Saturday, May 7 at St. Anthony's Lodge on Church Street, Downingtown. Visit dtwonchristmas.com for tickets and more information. Tickets are \$25 per person and include "food and beer" and soda. There also will be raffles, 50/50, Lady with the Best Bonnet, Best Dressed Couple, and Gentleman with fanciest bowtie contests. Adults only. Must be 21 to attend.

Muzzy Run

The 10th annual Muzzy Run will be conducted Saturday morning, May 7 on the Struble Trail in Downingtown. Registration opens at 7 AM. The events will include the races: a 5K run, at 8 AM; a Kids' Fun Run at 9 AM; and a Fun Walk at 9:15 AM. Proceeds go to the Terry Muzzy Foundation. For more details, see: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/MuzzyRun>.

Shredding/E-Waste

There will be a shredding and E-Waste events for borough residents only at Downingtown Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Ave. on Saturday, May 14. The shredding will be available from 9 AM to noon; 3 box limit; no hard bound books, binders, spiral notebooks or plastics. The E-Waste collection, from noon to 1 PM. Items collected FREE include: computers, networking equipment, printers, LCD monitors, wires, cable, AC adapters, USP batteries and open toner cartridges. CRT TVs and monitors will be accepted for a fee. These will NOT be accepted: smoke detectors, light bulbs, monitors with broken glass, alkaline batteries, paper or cardboard, furniture, large appliances, microwaves, and items with refrigerants.

All Wheels Consignment Sale

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission will have an All-Wheels Sale (bikes, skateboards, scooters, roller skates) at Kerr Park from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, May 14. For more details, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/ParksRec%20Commission/AllWheelsEventPR2016.jpgee>.

Lecture series in E. Brandywine

East Brandywine's Historical Commission will present the following lecture at 3:30 PM on Sunday 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.

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.

Farm Bureau's Agriculture Science Lab

Deb Ellis, egg farmer and PA Farm Bureau educator/director, will discuss "Early Learning About Agriculture" and the Farm Bureau's Agriculture Science Lab at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 17 in a program sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society and held in the West Caln Township building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Flea Market/Craft & Antique Sale

Table space is available for a flea market/craft/antique sale from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, May 14 (rain date May 21) to be held on the front lawn of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society. Call Joan at 610-384-9496 or Lois at 610-384-8153 for more information.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life will begin at 10 AM on Saturday, May 21 at Downingtown West High School. For more details, see: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=74705.

Victory Run for Ryan

Victory Brewery is sponsoring a road race at 1 PM on Sunday, May 22. For details, see: www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/run-for-victory2.

Fine Arts Festival

The Downingtown Main Street Association will sponsor a Fine Arts Festival at 202 E. Lancaster Ave., from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 28 and 10 AM to 5 PM Sunday, May 29. For more info, see: www.downingtownfinearts.com/aboutdfaf.html.

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.