

Details on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 6



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

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What & Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

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, and 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.

What was happening here 36 years ago

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

- The 112 units in the borough **apartment complex** located between the 300-block of East Lancaster and East Pennsylvania Avenues were going to switch to condominiums, according to John Scholtz, president of the Conco Development Corp. The complex had been known as the Lakeside Apartments at the time; currently, it's known as the Downingtown Commons.

- Sue Bertram was elected queen of the 18th annual **Homecoming**, sponsored by the DHS Alumni Association. Members of her court were Nancy Spatola, Connie Ascolese, Linda Stelzer, Brenda Durnell, Kitty Hayden, Kim Deck, Gina Napoleone, Chris Doran and Lois Isabella. Glen Wagner, who had served on the Downingtown School Board and its antecedents for more than 20 years, received the Honored Guest Award. Officers of the Alumni Association were Francis Summers, president; Carl Valente, vice president; Linda Brown, financial secretary; Debbie Garvey and Carol Brown, assistant financial secretaries; Kathy McNevech, corresponding secretary; and Hazel Miller, recording secretary.

- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, reported that about 35% of the 1,371 students enrolled at Downingtown's secondary schools participated in at least one of the 18 **interscholastic sports** offered during the 1979-80 school year.

- Honored guests at the **DHS Class of 1955's 25th reunion** were Sam Evans, retired principal; Vincent King, retired typing teacher; and Jean Steeley Pollock, the class's seventh grade teacher. Members of the reunion committee were Pete and Patricia Sciarretta, John and Janet (Fazzini) Polto, Tom and Rose Woodward, Joe and Louise (DiPietro) Chefko, Donald and Edie Miley, and Anthony Doto.

- Officers of the youth group at **St. James Episcopal Church** included Kathleen Gillooly, president; Mike Barnett, secretary; and Tracy Buell, treasurer. Also, Elizabeth Starr was the chairman of the parish's St. James Place committee, and John Gillooly was chairman of the membership committee.

- Brad Novak was "cool as any veteran," said Coach Chic Chicchino, as the sophomore kicked a 27-yard field goal with about two minutes on the clock, and the **DHS football team** beat Great Valley 18-15. Quarterback Brammer ran six yards for the Whippets' first score, but the Blue and Gold didn't score again until they capitalized on a Brent Sweeney interception in the fourth quarter and, subsequently, Reese Hunt capped a 14-play drive with a three-yard TD run. And Bruce Tiller knotted the score at 15-15, when he caught a pass for a two-point conversion.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 27 Ericsson Road, West Bradford, \$74,900; 303 Essex Street, Thorndale, \$46,900; 433 W. Prospect St., Downingtown, \$50,265; 616 Pancoast Lane, East Brandywine, \$91,200; 334 Pennwylt Court, Uwchlan, \$57,850; 19 Downing Circle, East Caln, \$148,500; 301 N. Whitford Road, West Whiteland, \$77,200.

- Winners of the Halloween **costume competition** at DHS were Jim Pike, Gail Cannella, Janie Stocton, Michelle Maskalick, Yvonne McFadden (French teacher), Patty Ann Marberger, Rhonda Kapinski, Donna Usher (art teacher), and Alray Johnson (driver-ed, teacher).

- **DHS soccer players** named to the All-Ches-Mont team included Mike Pastino, Dale Russell, Vince Forgione, Gary Johnson, Bob Trauger, Kirt Kessler, Tom Urban and Song-In-Son. And Paul Hurley was named the league's Coach of the Year.

Little League field became site of first St. Joe's School



Anthony D'Addezio is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the former Little League field in Downingtown in the early 1950s. The cars are parked along West Pennsylvania Avenue, just west of Manor Avenue, and the outfield fence ran along the alley, between Lancaster and Pennsylvania Avenues. You'll find more info about the establishment of the Little League in Downingtown at:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2010%20Hist-O-Grams/2010.pdf.

Also, that's the West Ward School on the south side West Lancaster Avenue (1910-1958) on the upper part of the photo, and part of the original Messiah Lutheran Church is on the upper left side of the picture. However, the north side of West Lancaster Avenue was still undeveloped at that point. The property became the location of the first St. Joseph's Catholic School, which opened in 1954, and a new Little League diamond was built on Manor Avenue. The former parochial school was the location of the Regina Luminis Academy for about a decade, until it recently moved to the Norristown area. However, part of the former school is now occupied by Brandywine Grace Church, and several homes were built on the property near the intersection with Manor Avenue in 1991.

Here's how to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf.

Vintage Ad of the Week

Complete New Stock of Spring Dresses and Hats

Graduation Dresses a
Specialty

A Variety of Sizes
and Models.

At Tempting Prices
Beautiful New Spring
Hats All Sizes



THE UNEEDA HAT SHOPPE

Mrs. Mary P. Entrekin, Prop.

West Lancaster Ave.

Downingtown, Pa.

This ad was originally published in the May 23, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

What local folks were talking about in October 1964

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

- The Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board was advised by an architectural consultant that the **East Ward School**, which was built nearly 50 years earlier, was structurally sound and it could be used for 10 more years, after some minor repairs were made. The school directors also decided not to pursue a major renovation at the school, which would cost about \$100,000, in order to meet state requirements. Instead, they planned to eventually build a 24-room school on neighboring property, to replace the original East Ward School.

- The board of trustees at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, signed an agreement of sale to purchase the property of John and Wilmer Scott on the east side of Uwchlan Avenue, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, where a new church would be built in the borough. The new church was needed because the congregation had doubled over the past 10 years, and that growth pace was projected to continue. The 4.7-acre site, which cost \$42,750, was nine times larger than the original church property at 216 East Lancaster Avenue, currently the location of the Dane Décor furniture store. Fundraising by the 600 member-congregation over for 10-years was expected to cover the \$500,000 overall cost of the project.

The church was organized in 1861, with 15 charter members. Services were initially conducted for three years on the third floor in a building known as Mullin's Hall, at 119 East Lancaster Avenue. The original church was built for \$5,200 during the Civil War period, and was dedicated on September 1, 1864. Land on which it was constructed was donated by Jacob Parke, a member of the Society of Friends, and Silas Yerkes, a charter member. And the original parsonage on Washington Avenue was built for \$2,300 on land donated by A. P. Tutton.

- DHS senior Edward Hildebeitel was named a semi-finalists in the **National Merit Scholarship competition**, and Robin Mattison and Janet Strawsnyder were named commended competitors in the competition. Also, Cheryl Jordan was elected queen of the second annual **DHS Homecoming**. Members of her court were Gail Katherman, Donna Hilton, Cindy Dellet, Patricia Findley and Sally Campbell.

- The **DHS Class of 1954** held its 10th reunion at St. Anthony's Lodge. Members of the reunion committee included Theresa Ciarlone Francella, Frank Delio, Honey Lou McNelly Sack, Joan Perella McCue, David Pomento, Charlotte DiGiavantonio Capella and Peter Bonaduce.

- **Girl Scout and Brownie** troop leaders from Glenmoore and East Brandywine, who had a planning session at Fairview Presbyterian Church, included: Mrs. William Davey, Mrs. Charles Dixon, Ms. William Funk, Mrs. Eugene Gabriel, Mrs. Edward Ker, Mrs. Edward McClure, Mrs. Ray Nellius, Mrs. Warren Radcliffe and Mrs. Donald Yost.

- The Impalas, a doo-wop singing quartet, appeared at the **Downingtown VFW Post** on West Lancaster Avenue. Their rendition of "Sorry (I ran all the home)" ranked number 2 on the Billboard chart of top songs in 1959. You can see the group singing that song at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVNtokecAq4.

- Six recent DHS grads who joined the **U.S. Air Force** included Richard Staneskie, Aaron Keeseey, Anthony Cozzone, Gary Holman, Frank Biondi and David Downing.

- Downingtown's **First Baptist Church** members who earned perfect attendance awards were Gilbert Cox, 43 years; Benjamin Russell, 18 years; and Mrs. Gerald Lammey, 15 years.

- Youngsters in the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, who were promoted from the nursery class to the kindergarten class, included Linda Freimuth, Joann Kochel, Heidi Bittmann and Donna Routzahn.
- Members of the executive board of the **Lionville Home and School Association** were Lester Smith, president; Mrs. Samuel Shaw, vice president; Mrs. Dale hart, secretary; Mrs. Howard Stimson, treasurer; Mrs. Richard Kerber, home room mothers; Mrs. Donald Kennedy, ways and means; Mrs. Richard O'Toole, membership; Mrs. Douglas Pagett, hospitality; and Mrs. Richard Irrgang, publicity.

Pomodoro and Beaver Creek Tavern are participating in our Restaurant Raffle

The Pomodoro Pizza and Italian Restaurant and the Beaver Creek Tavern are two of the nine popular Downingtown area eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House, St. Anthony's Restaurant and the Thorndale Inn.

Pomodoro, located at 200 Chestnut St., Downingtown, is operated by Croce Cataldo, a native of Sicily who has been in the restaurant business for more than 30 years and his wife, Claudia Plata. "We offer delectable Italian food," says Claudia. "We specialize in seafood dishes, make homemade pastas and even make delicious homemade desserts. We have a little bit of everything for every taste, from sandwiches and pizza to pasta dishes and sea food dishes. Our portions are generous, which make it a great value. Since our opening, a little more than a year ago, we have dedicated to give our best service to every customer. We are consistently dedicated to give to our neighbors in Downingtown our best."

The restaurant is open from 10 AM to 10 PM on Monday through Thursday, 10 AM through 11 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM until 9 PM on Sunday. For more info about Pomodoro, check out their website: www.pomodorodowningtown.com/. The restaurant can be reached by email via info@pomodorodowningtown.com or phone, (610) 873-0405.

The **Beaver Creek Tavern**, built as a duplex by a local farmer in 1845, is located at 1350 Bondsville Road, at the intersection of Bondsville Road and Kings Highway (Route 340), just outside of Downingtown and Thorndale, in Caln's Fisherville historic district. The tavern was opened by Stuart Deets and his nephew, James Dickinson, on January 4, 2010. Since the 1930s, the tavern has been known as the Fisherville or Kings Highway Inn, and from 2003 through 2008, it was Bacon's Tavern.

Besides its variety of popular entrees, the restaurant is well known for its special burger menu, which includes a bison burger, and its Philly cheesesteaks. And in addition to a revolving selection of 12 draft beers on tap, the tavern offers a wide selection of bottled beers, wines and liquors. Daily specials include: 50-cent wings and Texas Hold 'Em poker on Monday nights; tacos on Tuesday nights; a trivia competition on Thursday nights; and prime rib on Friday and Saturday nights. There is a special menu for kids under 12.

Among its many awards, Beaver Creek Tavern was the "Main Line Today" magazine's 2015 "Best of the Main Line" award winner for tavern-style dining.

Particularly unique are the outdoor porch and patio dining settings during temperate months.

The facility also features dining room seating for up to 45 guests, to accommodate private parties and wedding receptions. Wi-Fi service, and customized menus for corporate, social or themed events are available.

The tavern's hours are: 11 AM until midnight on Monday through Thursday, and 11 AM until 2 AM on Friday and Saturday. The kitchen closes at 10 PM on Wednesday through Saturday and at 9 PM on Sunday through Tuesday. For more info on the tavern, check out: www.beavercreek-tavern.com, or call 484-593-0481.

The Historical Society's raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. By splitting the nine restaurants into three packages, each of the three winners will receive three \$50 restaurant gift cards, worth a total of \$150.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to purchase a laptop and special software, which will enable us to present unique programs at local schools, churches and other sites.

Tickets may be purchased online, via the Historical Society's website, www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org, or by coming to Ashbridge House, our headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; by sending an email to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org, or by making out a check to DAHS and mailing it to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335.

The winning ticket will be drawn at 7 PM on Monday, December 19 at Ashbridge House. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more details on the raffle, including a disclaimer and individual restaurant's exclusions, go to: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org

Group Photo of the Week



DHS musicians who made the Southeastern Pennsylvania District Band during the 1964-65 school year were, left to right: Barbara Curry, Lynne Dowlin, Bonnie Ker, Lee Ann Cohen, Rojayne Ellis and James Scofield.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Turkey Trot

The 15th annual Chester County Turkey Trot will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 24, at Downingtown West High School. The event include a 5k race/walk, a 2k walk, and a Kids Fun Run. Proceeds from the races support the DHS West cross-country team, and benefit Cure4Cam Childhood Cancer Foundation. For more details, see: <http://chestercountyturkeytrot.com/index.html>.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus will be at the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park at 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 3. For more info: dtownhistoric@gmail.com.

Girls on the Run

The Greater Brandywine YMCA's Girls on the Run 5K will be held at Downingtown West High School at 9 AM on Saturday, December 3. For more details, see: www.ymcagbw.org/5k.

Tree Lighting

Downingtown's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 9, next to the Log House on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park. The event, sponsored by the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee, will also include caroling by the choir from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

Outdoor Christmas Decorating Contest

A Home for the Holidays Outdoor Decorating contest, will be held in the borough. Prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the residences that have the best outdoor Christmas decorations. The competition, co-sponsored by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission and the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, begins on Saturday, December 10 and continues until Thursday, December 22. Info on voting are at: <http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

Historical Markers

Keith Smith, author of books on local historical topics will present interesting information on Historical Markers at 3:30 PM on Sunday, Nov. 20, at an East Brandywine Historical Commission program, at East Brandywine Township Building on Rte. 322 in Guthriesville. More information: Carol Sinex Schmidt 484 237-8071.

Battle of the Brandywine

Bruce Mowday, historian, newspaper reporter, author of such books as: Along the Brandywine (Postcard), West Chester 6 Walking Tours, Life with a Flavor (Herr's history) Richie Ashburn, Unlikely Allies, Parkesburg, Coatesville, and others, will speak on the Battle on the Brandywine at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 15 at the West Caln Township Administration Building, 721 W. Kings Hwy, Wagontown, PA. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Holly & Greens Sale

The Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High St., West Chester, will have its annual Greens sale, plus a bake sale, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19. In addition to greens and holly, items will include handcrafted wreaths, floral arrangements, ornaments and garland. Special pricing for CCHS members, Meter parking is free on Saturday.

Holiday Fair

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 101 Worthington Road, off Route 100 in Lionville, will have a Holiday Fair from 9 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, November 19. There will be baskets for auction (starting at 2 PM), baked goods, attic treasures, lunch, used toys and games, and craft supplies. Kids can have photo taken with Santa. Call 610-363-7285 or 610-269-4358 for more details.

Gift & Craft Show

St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary will have its second annual Holiday Gift & Craft Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, November 19 at St. Anthony's lodge, 259 W. Church St., Downingtown. Refreshments, gift-wrapping and raffles will be available. For more info: contact Angela at 484-459-1905 or staladies@hotmail.com.

Flag Raising Ceremony

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will host a Veterans Day flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial area in Kerr Park, Downingtown, at 10 AM on Friday, November 11.

Christmas Bazaar

Crafters who wish to sell items at the Downingtown United Methodist Church's Christmas Bazaar must reserve a table space by Monday, November 7 by calling 484-678-3814. The bazaar will be held at the church, on Saturday, November 12.

Fine Arts & Craft Show

There will be a juried show, featuring original work in ceramics, glass, wood, paper, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and more, at the Lincoln and Washington buildings at Historic Yellow Springs in Chester Springs, from 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday, November 11; Saturday, November 12; & Sunday, November 13. Admission: \$5; free to members.

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.