

More info 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 site 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 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of March 1949:

- The borough's School Board met with school directors from seven neighboring township school systems and county and state school officials, in an effort to solve the **overcrowding** at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy). The borough's secondary school on Manor Avenue satisfied the needs of youngsters who lived in Downingtown, noted Charles Emery, the borough district's supervising principal (superintendent). However, the plant and staff at the junior-senior high school in the borough would not be able to adequately serve all the students, when the number from the outlying communities continued to grow at a fast pace. Also, increasing the size of the current junior-senior high school, to accommodate more pupils—including the immediate need for eight more classrooms and two industrial arts shops—would cost \$300,000, said George Nixdorf, president of the Downingtown School Board. That expense, and meeting the needs of inevitable enrollment growth in the near future, could only be accomplished by consolidation of the school districts in nearby rural townships with the borough school system, concluded the school officials at the meeting.

- Martin Binder, former fire chief, explained how the Downingtown Fire Department's new, **two-way radio system** was set up. It included two portable units on two of the fire companies' trucks, and a base station, including a 108-foot tall antenna, at the Alert's fire station. Cost of the system was to be shared by both companies.

- Two-year-old **Johnny Walls**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Walls, Downingtown, owed his life to the efforts of family physician Dr. Martin Neff, Minquas ambulance driver Frank Baen and two volunteers, who worked on the boy for about 45 minutes, after he had a seizure. Dr. Neff said the resuscitator on the ambulance played a critical role in saving the child's life.

- Featured at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School's annual **music recital** were a vocal quartet comprised of John Shisler, James Zaferes, Gordon Carpenter and Ronald Hogg; and a clarinet quartette that included Louise Bartelmo, Margaret Sciarretta, Barbara Seibert and Joseph Streamer. Instrumentalists who performed solos were Robert Hughes, saxophone; Marvin Frederick, trombone; John Windle, drums; and Annabelle Warnick flute.

- Wallace Township residents who collected funds for the **Red Cross** included Mrs. William Rigg, Mrs. Noah Sensenig, Mrs. John Adams, Olive Williams, David Johnson, Joaquin Matlack, David Grimes, Grier Miller, Kenneth Comstock, William Harrop, Joseph Mason and Ralph Hannum.

- Elected as directors of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Herbert Ash, C.O. Brown, Jack Brownstein, Ernest Smedley, Ralph Lineinger, Samuel Evans and George Aumiller.

- A Downingtown man, who had married a Louisiana woman while he was serving on a U.S. Navy base near New Orleans during World War II, was granted a divorce in Chester County Court on grounds of desertion. The ex-sailor told Judge W. Butler Windle that when he had proposed that his wife should come back to Downingtown to live with him, she retorted, "You are not sticking me in any hick town."

- Elected during the annual re-organization of **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glen Moore, were Theodore Baumgard, president; Thomas Millard, secretary; George Crosby, treasurer; and Jacob Shoemaker, cemetery superintendent.

- Officers elected to lead the Lionville-based **Twin Valley 4-H Club** were Meredith Ruark, president; George Ruark, vice president; Carl Ruth, secretary-treasurer; and Gwen Hamer, program chairman. Peggy LaRose, and Shirley and Elinor Matlack were new members.

- Girls who joined a newly formed **Brownie troop in Marshallton** included Pat and Lynn Klunder, June Brackbill, Barbara Busby, Anna Sheets, Kathleen Hall, Susie McCue, Ann Jefferis, Emily Lambert, Barbara Durnall and Jean Edwards. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Edward McCue and Mrs. H. S. Geisel.

- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown VFW Post** were William Wilmot, commander; Ralph Howard, senior vice commander; Jack Farrell, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Walter Hadfield, chaplain; and Marshall Deputy, John Rogers and James Fennelly, trustees. And elected to lead the **VFW Post's auxiliary** were Louise Ayers, president; Mrs. Earl Parker, senior vice president; Mrs. Henry Thomas, junior vice president; Mrs. William Reed, treasurer; Kathryn Ceulers, chaplain; and Mrs. Walter Hadfield, trustee.

Group Photo of the Week



The faculty and staff at Beaver Creek School in Downingtown included, during the 2002-2003 school year, from right to left: first row—John Leonard, principal, Maurice Bowers, Betty Farnum, Debbie Flint, Anita Grimes, Judy Hart, Donna Carr, Jo Anne Heckman, Juanna Herman; second row—Michele McKibbin, Michelle Clegg, Sherry Disney, Diane White, Laurel Finch, Lori Guthrie, Judy LaDrew, Patty Andrey, Nicole Detwiler; third row—Kim Stefanski, Noriene Radcliffe, Nancy drake, Robert Hoffman, Sharon Reinard, Jan Lowney, Kathy Freed, Nancy Petka; fourth row—Susan Welk, Lauren Reybitz, Linda Grigsby, June McKown, Robert Kasabo, Lisa Zimmerman, Barbara Stevenson, Allison Schmidt, Lucy Poole. Photo was provided by Jo Anne Heckman.

It's the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House



Not one soul correctly identified the site in this 1902 photo of the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, on Route 113 in Lionville, which was built in 1756. The Uwchlan Friends Meeting was established in 1714. During the Revolutionary War, a Continental Army hospital was established at nearby Yellow Springs, but when that facility was overwhelmed with sick and wounded soldiers in 1778, the meeting house was commandeered by military physicians and converted into a military hospital. Beginning in 1904, Lionville High School used the meeting house for classes until 1932, when the high school closed. Subsequently, the building was occupied by Lionville Elementary School, until 1960. The Uwchlan Grange, which had been meeting in the building since 1906, purchased the property in 1920. However, the graveyard continued to be owned by the Friends Meeting. The Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan, which was formed in 1922, took ownership of the meeting house in 1963. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In 1976, the building was sold to the Uwchlan Conservation Trust, but the Community Club continues to use the building for its clubhouse and manages rentals

What local folks were talking about 86 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the summer of 1930:

- Trustees of the **Minquas Fire Co.** bought its adjoining property on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, formerly the garage and offices of the Downingtown Motor Co., for \$20,000. In addition to enabling the Minquas to expand its operation when needed, several members of the fire company talked about the option of constructing a community swimming pool inside the newly acquired building. In the fall of 1929, the fire company had installed bowling alleys to be used by the community, and a gymnasium on the second floor of the fire house, where the DHS boys' and girls' basketball teams practiced and played home games.

- Several **golf businesses** were opened in the Downingtown area. A miniature course was installed on the Bell Tavern property on Route 30 in East Caln, where players paid 35 cents for a round at night and 25 cents during the day. Also, golfers could practice—50 cents for 50 balls—on a driving range that was opened on the Howard Trego farm on Route 30 in the Gallagherville section of Caln. And a miniature golf course was opened on the Swan Hotel property on Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown.

Vintage Ad of the Week



4th OF JULY

SALE of USED CARS

Beginning June 27th and Ending July 3rd



USED CARS that have been RECONDITIONED and will give you the SERVICE that you expect of them!

1929 HUDSON SEDAN \$875.00	1929 ESSEX COUPE, Wire Wheels \$550.00
1929 ESSEX COACH, Wire Wheels \$550.00	1929 ESSEX COACH \$525.00
1926 NASH SEDAN \$175.00	1927 FORD COUPE \$65.00
1928 ESSEX SEDAN \$375.00	1928 ESSEX COACH \$350.00
1924 PierceArrow Sedan \$400.00	1926 OVERLAND SEDAN \$100.00

Below are Specials from \$50 to \$150

S
P
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HUDSON COACH

DODGE SEDAN

STUDEBAKER SEDAN

HUDSON SPEEDSTER

HUDSON COACH

DODGE ROADSTER

FORD COUPE

S
P
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EASY TERMS

OPEN EVENINGS

B. F. Leaman & Sons

520 E. Lincoln Highway
Phone 600
Downingtown, Penna.

This ad was originally published in the June 27, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Thorndale Inn is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Thorndale Inn, 430 Bonsdsville Road, Downingtown, is one of the nine, local eating establishments participating in the Historical Society's fourth annual "A Taste of Chester County" Restaurant Raffle. Other participants are: Beaver Creek Tavern, Downingtown Country Club, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

The Thorndale Inn is open seven days a week and offers senior discounts. It is known for its friendly, family atmosphere, consistent quality food and exceptional customer service. The restaurant offers a wide selection of prime steaks and seafood dishes, as well as Italian specialties. The Inn offers a wide array of lunch and dinner specials, and large portions are reasonably priced. Owner Sam Estephan has operated the Thorndale Inn for 23 years. The Inn features a main dining room, comfortable bar with a fun and more casual atmosphere, plus two other private banquet rooms and a spacious outdoor deck. It can host all types of events, from wedding receptions to anniversary parties with up to 100 guests in a single room, to social gatherings or company meetings. Also available is complimentary WiFi Internet access throughout the Inn.

The Thorndale Inn was recently named Best Local Family Restaurant in Chester County by Clipper Magazine.

For more info on the restaurant, check out: www.thorndaleinn.com/.

Bigger and Better

The Historical Society's Restaurant Raffle is better and bigger this year because each ticket costs only \$30, and there will be three winners. Also, 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. And since we're a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, ticket fees are tax-deductible.

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

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 Downingtown's Kerr Park at 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 3. Bring a non-perishable food item for the Lord's Pantry! For more info: dtownhistoric@gmail.com.

Open House

You can see the decorated historic buildings, which will be part of the open house at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum at 50 South First Ave., Coatesville from 5-8 PM on Friday, December 9. The event will also include the Lukens Band and a model railroad display. Visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good or a children's book.

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://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Home%20for%20the%20holidays%20flyer%202016.pdf>.

Christmas Parade

Downingtown's Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, December 10. Besides Santa Claus and at least marching bands, the parade will include many local groups and businesses. For more details, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

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.

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 (ending 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.

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.