

# Happy Thanksgiving



## 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 & Where Is This?



Yes, many of you will recognize that this is a photo of a mile marker. However, the first person to correctly tell us where that mile marker is located today will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 5***

## What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

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

- **Vernon “Zeke” Osborne** was named chief of the Downingtown Police Department. Osborne, a 29-year veteran on the 12-officer force, replaced Lewis Wilson, who had retired in February 1980.
- Representatives of the **Downingtown Historical Society** presented a \$1,200 check to Downingtown’s Borough Council. All told, the organization contributed \$10,800 to underwrite the borough history being written by Jane Davidson. The history was published in 1982.
- Officers elected to lead the Christian Endeavor primary group at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, were Tara Trego, president; Bill Weber, vice president; and Jason Trego, secretary-treasurer. Members of the nominating committee included Jim Runyen, Libby Hughes, Florence Krisch, Charles Popjoy and Adell Anthony.
- Elected to the **Lionville Youth Association** board were Don Wix, Otto Preikszas, Norm McQuillin, Fred Costello, John Bertram, Rich Evangelista, Tim Carrol and Tom Cliggett.
- Once again, sophomore kicker Brad Novak booted a field goal in the waning seconds of a game, as the **DHS football squad** beat Pottstown 16-14. The deciding three-pointer was set up when defensive end Chet Eagles blocked a Pottstown punt and carried the ball to the Trojan 15-yard line. Teddy Robinson was the Whippets’ leading rusher, with 139 yards on 26 carries.
- The Downingtown **Young Whippets’** 75-pound team, coached by George Murphy, Dennis Myers, Wes Pannebaker, Skip Weiss and George Wolf, won the Bert Bell Conference title by beating the Brandywine Youth Club 13-0.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 317 Huffman Drive, Exton, \$87,500; 123 Taylors Mill Road, Uwchlan, \$76,665; 8 Waterview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$73,000; 612 Pancoast Lane, East Brandywine, \$91,525; 1640 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$63,122; 243 Prospect Avenue, Downingtown, \$46,700; 117 Argyll Court, Thorndale, \$45,000.
- **Daniel Lyons**, a Lionville volunteer firefighter, participated in the rescue efforts at the MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas, which took 80 lives. Lyons was attending a business convention at Caesar’s Palace across street. After he showed Las Vegas Fire Department officials documents that he was a trained firefighter and ambulance corpsman, he became part of the rescue operation.
- **Randy Treer** dove into the Ohio River in Cincinnati and rescued a man whose car had plunged into the river. The car’s driver went under water twice before Treer saved him. Treer had just completed a 10-hour drive from his family’s home in Lionville to Cincinnati, where he was pursuing a degree at the University of Cincinnati.
- Coatesville Hospital announced plans to relocate as soon as December 1981, to the new **Brandywine Hospital** on Reeceville in Caln.
- Downingtown Junior High School pupils, who placed ninth in team competition at the National Conference of **Industrial Arts Students** in Gatlinburg, TN, included John Sciandra, Eileen Ferris, Lou Cippolini, Asit Upadyay, Diane Sanner and Steve Foster.
- The real estate firm of Porter and Painter listed the **Downingtown United Methodist Church** on Brandywine Avenue for sale. The original part of church was constructed in 1899. The asking price was \$125,000.

***More info on our bigger, better Restaurant Raffle on page 5***

## Group Photo of the Week



In the latter half of the 1980s, Downingtown's Borough Council was comprised of, left to right: seated Frank Manetta, Mayor John Fiore, Vince DiEuliis and Bill Whiteman; standing, Pete Karahalis, Jim McGowan and Clarence Wilkerson.

## Vintage Ad of the Week

# J. J. NEWBERRY CO.

**DOWNINGTOWN, PA.**

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- SPECIAL ANKLETS, New Merchandise . . . . . pair 19c
- SPECIAL LADIES' RAYON P ANTIES . . . . . pair 25c
- LA BELLE TISSUES, 400 count . . . . . 23c
- MEN'S SHORTS, Special . . . . . 57c
- MEN'S BRIEFS, Special . . . . . 39c
- LADIES' DRESSES . . . . . 1.88
- DISH CLOTHS . . . . . each 5c
- DISH STRAINERS . . . . . 39c
- SPUNLO PANTIES . . . . . 49c

This ad was originally published in the March 24, 1949 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

# What was happening here 86 years ago

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

- In an article about an upcoming **Downingtown School Board** meeting, where borough residents could express their recommendations regarding the local school district's current facilities and curriculum, the newspaper noted: "The local high school supports very little beyond the academic courses, and in a cosmopolitan population like Downingtown it will not require much argument to convince anyone that domestic science courses and vocational courses are essential because the number of people that can profit by the studies of Latin, French, mathematics, etc. are few, compared to those who could be helped by domestic science, vocational and manual courses."
- The intersection of Routes 100 and 30, now known as the **Exton Crossroads**, was beginning to bustle with several new businesses. They included Daniel Barbour's Sunoco gas station, R.W. Thomas's Junction Garage, Hatton's Exton Lodge, and M.H. Reese's Valley Creek Coffee House.
- **Downingtown's Park Commission** collected \$430. 50 in its fundraising campaign, so trees (costing \$2.50 and \$1.50) and shrubs (50 cents) could be purchased and planted in Kerr Memorial Park.
- **Miniature golf** continued to boom in the borough. The first indoor miniature golf course, installed in Howe's garage on Washington Avenue, was "cleverly" decorated with trees and bushes, so it resembled the outdoors. The garage was heated so people could play during the cold weather months. And Frank McGraw was conducting a tournament on his "Little Bill's" miniature golf course on West Church Street in the Johnsontown section of the borough.
- Local car dealers John McGowan & Son, Motor Service Co., B.F. Leaman & Sons and Wallace Motor Co. were advertising that they were authorized by the State Highway Department to perform the **second compulsory inspection of motor vehicles**. The inspection campaign started on September 15 and ended on October 31. Those who did not comply were subject to arrest.
- Significant improvements had been made to the dining room of the **Swan Hotel** in Downingtown's Center Square, according to H.G. Barry, the hotel's owner. At the time, the Downingtown Lion's Club and the Downingtown Business Men's Club conducted their weekly meetings there.
- The **DHS football team** "humbled" Phoenixville 18-0 in its season opener. The Blue and Gold tallied its first TD when Morris Yohn intercepted a pass and 40 yards to the end zone. Charles Horning tossed a 25-yard pass to Clarence Myers for the second Papertowners' score. And Joe Sciarretta's 30 yard run for a score in the fourth quarter ensured a victory.

## 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](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# Thorndale Craft House is participating in our bigger & better Restaurant Raffle

The Thorndale Craft House, 300 North Bailey Road, adjacent to the Ingleside Golf Course in Thorndale, 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 Inn and St. Anthony's Restaurant.

The main dining room at the Craft House offers lunch and dinner menus with a great selection, ranging from gourmet burgers to Thai flatbreads, as well as locally-sourced entrees. Special dinners include Tex Mex on Tuesdays and Ayce Pasta Night on Wednesdays. And live music is played for customer's pleasure on Friday and Saturday nights. Also, in addition to a wide variety of draught and bottled beers, the bar--known as the Tee Tavern--features a specially chosen house lager, locally brewed by Philadelphia Brewing Company. This crisp, light-bodied, golden beer is the very definition of refreshment. The combination of premium German pilsner malts and American Noble hops aims to please customers' taste buds and satisfy their thirst.

The Craft House's hours are 11:30 AM until late on Tuesday through Sunday. And the Tee Tavern is open from 4 PM until late on Tuesday through Friday, and opens at 11:30 AM on Saturdays and Sunday. You'll find more details about the menu, beers, opportunities for private parties, and other features at [www.thorndalecrafthouse.com/](http://www.thorndalecrafthouse.com/), or by calling 484-786-9008, or via [Thorndalecrafthouse@gmail.com](mailto:Thorndalecrafthouse@gmail.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.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.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@downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.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©(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.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org)

# It's the barn at Glen Isle Farm



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person who correctly identified the building in the photo above as the barn at Glen Isle Farm. Currently, the property is the location of the Orangery Restaurant, 130 South Lloyd Ave., Downingtown. The Italian BYO restaurant is owned and operated by Paul and Sabrina Lutz. The photo of the barn, was taken by Roy D'Ginto of Downingtown in 1987, before significant deterioration occurred.

First opened as a tavern in 1735; the establishment was called "The Ship" in 1764. George Washington visited there, according to his diary entry for June 3, 1773. After British soldiers shot bullets into the tavern's wooden sign during the Revolutionary War, the business was moved to the Lancaster Pike and Ship Road in Exton in 1795. During the Civil War, the home at Glen Isle was a "safe house" on the Underground Railroad.

## Brief, but important

- Congratulations to several former DHS sports stars, who were recently inducted into a hall of fame. Tora Suber, Whippet girls' basketball star, who was an All-American at the University of Virginia and played in the WNBA, was part of the 2016 Chester County Sports Hall of Fame. And **Lex Ziobro** and **Felicia Ficca**, who were on the West Chester State College field hockey team that were 1975 AIWA Collegiate field hockey champions, which was part of the 2016 class inducted into the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame.

- Since it's part of the Thanksgiving holiday, Ashbridge House, the Historical Society headquarters will **NOT be open** on Sunday afternoon, November 27.

## **This was NOT the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House**



Now it's time for us to eat some crow. Rahn Brackin, the same person who is a truly perceptive scholar because he correctly identified the photo of the barn at Glen Isle Farm, as noted on the previous page, also informed us that the photo above is not the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, which we claimed in last week's Hist-O-Gram. We made that assumption because the 1902 photo donated to us years ago included the hand-written notation "Meeting House." And yes, we knew that the Uwchlan Meeting House, built in 1756, was constructed of stone. However, we unwisely suspected the stone exterior walls could have been covered with stucco, which was commonplace during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Well, we were wrong. Rahn says the building in the photo above actually was the Bell School, which was located on Bell Tavern Road, near Route 30, in East Caln. Several decades after the school was closed in 1924, the building became part of the D'Ambrosio car dealership, which has since been relocated further east on Route 30. And the school's former site is now occupied by the Wawa convenience store. Perplexing about the Bell School's identity, however, is the fact that there's another vintage photo of the school, in the Chester County Historical Society's photo archive, shows a building that was octagonal and had a cupola-like structure on top. It didn't look at all like the plain, quadrangular building in the photo above.

## **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.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).

# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***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. For more info: [dtownhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:dtownhistoric@gmail.com).

## ***Christmas Program***

You can welcome the Christmas season with Old Caln Historical Society's Candlelight Christmas Carol program at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 6 at the Old Caln Meetinghouse, Route 340, Thorndale. The music will be provided by the Caln School Chorus, the Belletones and Redmen from the CASH Meistersingers, and well-known local vocalist, Kevin Pierce. Everyone is welcome. There will be free light refreshments after the program. Lighted parking available. More info available via: [led3216@verizon.net](mailto:led3216@verizon.net).

## ***Holiday Events in W. Bradford***

Holiday events on Saturday, December 3 in West Bradford include: Breakfast with Santa from 8-11 AM at the Fire house; the Friends of Martin's Tavern group's Holiday Bazaar at the Marshallton blacksmith's shop from 10 AM to 3 PM and tree lighting at 4-6 PM at Martin's Tavern.

## ***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.

## ***Local Author Day***

A meet & greet and roundtable discussion will be held at the Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue 9 AM until noon Saturday, December 3.

## ***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](http://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/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

### ***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, December 9 and Saturday, December 10. 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. And the Museum and Genealogy Library will have free admission on December 9 and 10, during the sale.

### ***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](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) <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).