



## 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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## Where Is This?



We suspect many people will recognize the stately building in the top portion of the photo above. However, we're trying to determine what is currently located on the site of the baseball field today. The first person to correctly provide that information will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

# What was happening here 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of March 1948:

- The **Marshallton School PTA** sponsored a meeting with a large number of West Bradford residents to discuss the reorganization of the township's school system. Much attention was focused on which high school—Downingtown, Coatesville or West Chester—township youngsters should attend. The township school board was requested to hire a University of Pennsylvania Education group to study the issue.

- Downingtown's **Health Board** initiated an investigation of who was responsible for the accumulation of garbage and refuse in the mill race, which travelled under stores on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough's business district, and ultimately collected at the Bicking Paper Co., located at the rear of the Downingtown National Bank's main office.

- **Girl Scout Troop 10** celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a party at Marshallton School. Members of the troop who participated in games such as "Clumps," "Cootie," and "George Washington Crossing the Delaware" at the party included Verna and Jo-Ann Woodward, Bunny Bunting, Patty Bittle, Caroline Ferri, June Ellingsworth, Didi Wilson, Edith Albertson, Mary Brackbill, Jennie Thompson, Carlene Yetter, Shirley Lamborn, Mary-Jane Place, Jo-Ann LeFevre, Doris Cann, Lee Ashby and Edith Smyers.

- The Ladies Working Guild at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, baked 140 pies of many varieties in the church kitchen early one morning and quickly sold them all. The committee responsible for the project included Mrs. Earl Garrison, Mrs. Frank McCorkle and Mrs. George Holcombe.

- Members of the cast in the **DHS senior play**, "Don't Take My Penny," included Marie Cozzone, Ruth Schrupf, Phil Burns, Duane Chesney, Charles Pollock, Marjorie Lyons, Virginia and Thomas Bare, Frances DiPietro, Richard Warren, Rena Eachus, Frank Pomento, Betty Moore, Jane Wallace, Dorothy Perley, Frank Wagoner and A.C. Hammons. Special music was performed between acts by vocalist Elsie Manetta and trumpeter Peter Edgar.

- Sixth graders at **West Ward School** in Downingtown, who performed in an operetta, were Dick Goudie, Chaddie Campbell, Dottie Kipp, June Oliver, Helen Jane Henry, Elmer Esworthy, Raymond Thompson, Billie Osborne, Esther Flowers, Teresa Ciarlone, Richard Valentino, Fay Bousum, Shirley Cumens, Bob Plank, and Nancy Yohn.

- DHS seniors who received \$25 awards from the **DHS Alumni Association** were Beverly Chandler and Duane Chesney. The awards were presented at the organization's annual banquet, which was attended by 425 alums. The association voted to have a bronze plaque that memorialized the DHS boys, who were killed in World War II, installed in the junior-senior high school on Manor Avenue.

- Students at **Indiantown School** in Glen Moore who served on the safety patrol, were Joaquin Matlack, Amos Ammon, Howard Arters, Shirley Hannum and Arthur Miller. They were supervised by teacher Mary Eppiheimer.

- Soloists who performed at the DHS spring concert included Janet Kriebel, Frank DiSilvestro, Annabelle Warnick and William Cole.

- Members of **Downingtown Methodist Church**, whose altar and pulpit furniture donations, were given in memory of loved ones who were killed in World War II, were dedicated at a special service, included: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pickell, a pulpit; Bertha Thayssen, a pulpit Bible; Mr. and Mrs. William Kline, a communion table; and Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Brownback, an altar cross and candlestick holders,

## It was Brothers of the Brush contest during borough's Centennial



Tom Lee Jr. is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above as the finalists shaving, following the judging of the Brothers of the Brush competition during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Downingtown's incorporation in 1859. Looking on were the Centennial Queen and several members of her court.

## What local folks were talking about in May 1930

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* 86 years ago:

- The **Roosevelt Theatre** on Brandywine Avenue, Downingtown, had begun giving Personal Beauty Ware pieces to women who attended a movie on a Wednesday or Thursday night. The free pieces included a dressing comb, brush, mirror and "all the necessary manicuring and toilette articles for the lady's boudoir."

- **Samuel Banghart**, an 85-year-old Civil War veteran participated in the Downingtown's Memorial Day parade, as the last surviving member of the local GAR Post, which he had founded. He enlisted in the Union Army as a drummer boy when he was 16, and subsequently served as an infantryman until 1865.

- Many local residents only had to pay \$3.50 to take advantage all summer of the recreational activities offered by the **YMCA Camp**, located just south of the borough border. The camp included six two-story cottages and six bungalows, both of which had electric lights; the weekly rate for lodging was \$7, excluding meals. There also was a cement, outdoor swimming pool and a bathhouse, four tennis courts, and a recreation hall. Also, Camp Dwight, for boys between 11 and 16, and Camp Castle, for young kids, were Additional facilities opened for the first time.

- In addition to shoe repairs, **Joseph Mfauewd** offered cleaning and blocking of hats at his shop at 114 E. Lancaster Avenue.
- An altar frontal, designed by parishioner Gilbert McIlvaine and executed by a firm in London, was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Noll in memory of their daughter, Ruth, to **St. James Episcopal Church** in Downingtown. And proceeds from several performances of an operetta, starring St. James members, were used to pay for painting of the parish house's interior.
- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** established a foundation to help worthy DHS grads pay for their college education.
- Members of **St. Anthony's Lodge** and their families in Downingtown celebrated St. Anthony's Day by having an Italian band from South Philadelphia play several concerts over the weekend in the Johnsontown section of the borough, and enjoyed a fireworks display on Saturday night.
- The grand prize at the **Minquas Fire Co.** carnival was \$100 in gold.
- Mrs. A. Lee Miller opened the **Brandywine Tea Room** at 103 Brandywine Ave. in the borough. Another new eating establishments was J. F. McNerney's **White House Inn**, on Route 30 in the Whitford area.

### Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Woodshop Club at DHS during the 1964-65 school year were, left to right: first row, Sharon Hopkins, Betty Winters and Sandra Weiler; second row, George Dunn, Joseph Kirkner, William Coffman, Jerome Williams and James Hemcher.

## **St. Anthony's is participating in our Restaurant Raffle**

St. Anthony's Restaurant one 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: Beaver Creek Tavern, Georgio's, Milito's, Pomodoro, The Station Tap, The Thorndale Craft House, and the Thorndale Inn.

St. Anthony's Restaurant, located at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 W. Church St, in the Johnstown section of the borough, offers a little taste of Italy in your back yard. The restaurant has been operated since 2012 by Rose Mascherino Ciarlone, who's carrying on a family tradition since her father was a waiter there many years ago. The Lodge, which has over 2,000 members, will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1919. And its leaders include fourth generation persons who are taking over the club's management.

In addition to the many traditional Italian favorites such as homemade pasta, meatballs, gnocchis, crepe lasagna, soups and sauces on the dinner menu, customers rave about unusual items, such as: the vegetable risotto, calamari, and pumpkin raviolis.

The restaurant, which is open to the public from 5-9 PM on Tuesday through Saturday and from 3-8 PM on Sunday. Reservations can be made by calling 610-269-9039.

Besides hosting private parties and group dinners in the Lodge's second floor banquet hall, which has a capacity of 150 people, the restaurant recently started offering line dancing (only \$10 at the door) every Wednesday night, 7-8 PM for lessons and 8-10 PM for dancing.

For more info on St. Anthony's Restaurant, see: [www.facebook.com/StAnthonysRestaurant/](http://www.facebook.com/StAnthonysRestaurant/).

Our raffle is better and bigger this year because each raffle 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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

## **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\\_DedAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_DedAbstract.pdf).

## Pat Butler explains how Fire Department's alarm system worked

When Pat Butler, longtime firefighter for the Alerts, saw the photo of the Pennsylvania House demolition in the October 20 Hist-O-Gram, he immediately noticed the Gamewell fire alarm box attached to a utility pole in the picture. The Downingtown Fire Department used the Gamewell system from the late 1920s until 1985.

In addition to the one in front of the Pennsylvania House, the alarm boxes also were located in the 1960s and 1970s at Center Square (intersection of Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues), old St Joseph's Catholic School and Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue, the junior high school (now the STEM Academy) and the senior high school on Manor Avenue, and East Ward School on East Lancaster Avenue.

Pat explained how that alarm system worked in an email to the Historical Society:

*If someone activated the alarm, a loud bell would sound at each fire station in town, in addition to the horns at Borough Hall.*

*Pat now owns the box that had been in front of the old St Joseph's Catholic School. That was Box 312. So when someone pulled that alarm, it was activated and the bells at both fire houses in town would sequentially ring 3 times, 1 time and 2 times. The same sequence would be heard throughout town from the horns at Borough Hall.*



*The photo on the left shows what the system, installed at each fire house, looked like; several cog wheels in that box activated the horns and bells at each firehouse.*

*And if there was a general alarm, someone would activate one of the Gamewell systems at either fire house with a 7, which would blow the horns in 7 bursts (and would repeat 2 more times.) If the alarm signaled a call to the Alert Fire Co., the signal would be a 13 sequence (one burst followed by three bursts), while a signal to the Minquas Fire Co. would be a 12 (one burst, followed by two bursts).*

*Also an alarm for an air raid would be continuously blasting of the horns at Borough Hall.*

## Miss a Hist-O-Gram published in October?

You can access any of the Hist-O-Grams published in October, by clicking on the coding below.

October 6— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%206%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%206%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 13— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2013%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2013%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 20— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2020%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2020%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 27— [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2027%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2027%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

Our headquarters is pictured on Yellowbook cover



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# Downingtown • Exton

Including Business White Page Listings  
for all of Chester County

2016-2017  
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Lionville, Lyndell, Parkesburg, Sadsburyville, Thorndale, Wagontown  
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Packed with valuable  
local business information

**yellowbook**  
For nationwide local search and business solutions, visit [yellowbook.com](http://yellowbook.com)

The rear of Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters, is pictured on the front cover of the new edition of the Exton-Downingtown Yellowbook telephone directory.

Vintage Ad of the Week

*For Health and Fun Skate*  
*At . . .*

# **SKATELAND**

## **ROLLER RINK**

Route 30                      Exton, Pa.  
Every Eve. 8 P.M. to 11 P.M.  
    Excluding Monday Eves.  
Saturday & Sunday Matinees  
    2 P.M.-4:30 P.M.



**★ New Management**  
**★ New Music**  
**★ New Plastic Floor**

**SPECIAL!**  
**SAT. EVENING**  
**AUG. 29**  
**OLD TIMERS**  
**NIGHT**  
**FREE**      **COFFEE &**  
                  **DOUGHNUTS**

M. MEKOSH, Operator                      W. RYAN, Manager

This ad was originally published in the August 28, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.



# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***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.

## ***History of Dowlin Forge***

Chester County author and storyteller Susannah Brody will talk about the long-term business connections between three generations of the Dowlin family and Rebecca Lukens and her descendants. The program will be at 6 PM on Thursday, November 3 at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Avenue, Coatesville. Cost is \$5; members free. Light refreshments will be served.

## ***Lecture series***

Sandra Momyer will talk about Historic Yellow and the Battle of the Clouds at the monthly lecture on Thursday, November 3, sponsored by the Mill at Anselma, which will be held at Bell Hall, Montgomery School on Route 113. \$5 per person; Anselma Mill members free. Wine and cheese reception at 6:30 PM; lecture starts at 7 PM.

## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***Roast Beef Dinner***

The Old Caln Historical Society will hold its annual, multi-course roast beef dinner at 5 PM on Saturday, November 5, at the Thorndale Inn. George Burns, a historical comedian, will provide entertainment, and there may even be a "Gracie" sighting. Tickets are \$30 per person, including gratuity and the cost of entertainment. The public is invited. Call Joan 610-384-9496 or Lois 610-384-8153 for reservations.

### ***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.

### ***CMMD Run***

The Team CMMD This Run's Personal 5K road race will be held at 9 AM on Saturday, November 5 at DHS West 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more info, see:

[www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal](http://www.racemenu.com/events/141009-Team-CMMD-This-Run-s-Personal).

### ***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).