



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. 40

October 13, 2016



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@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

What local people were talking about 36 years ago

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

- The **Downingtown School District** approved the purchase of the Chemical Leaman Tank Lines' office building on Wallace Avenue in the borough for \$250,000. The building was to be used by the district's administrative staff, which had been housed for about 20 years in an annex of the high school on Manor Avenue. (*Editor's note: The Downingtown Library now occupies the building*).

- The Minquas and Uwchlan Ambulance Corps and the East Brandywine Fire Co. rescue squads each received \$2,000 from the proceeds of the second annual **Good Neighbor Day** road race on the Fourth of the July in Downingtown. More than 650 runners entered the 1980 race; there were 425 entrants in 1979.
- The **Exton-Lionville YMCA's** bid of \$87,000 resulted in its right to buy an 8.7-acre tract at Devon Drive and Whitord Road, which was owned by Uwchlan Township. The township bought the property in 1973 for \$65,000 as the possible site for a municipal building.
- DHS students who were semi-finalists in the **Merit Scholarship competition** were Allison Rabeneau, David Stockoff and Alison Hubler. Commended students in the competition included Sean Brown, Kimberly McCue, Brian Stockoff, Catherine Ross and Keith Huls.
- Michael Miller of the Minquas Fire Co and Brian Rambo of the Alert Fire Co. were named the Downingtown Fire Department's **Firefighters of the Year**.
- **Wilson's Marsh Creek Inn** on Route 282 in Glen Moore was offering a "complete lobster or prime rib dinner" on weekends for just \$9.95. And the **Black Angus Inn** was selling a filet mignon and king crab legs dinner for \$11.95
- The **West Bradford Home and School Association's officers** were Pam Foy, president; Mary Crouse, first vice president; Cathy Oles, second vice president; Joyce Fernald, secretary; and Kathy Murphy, treasurer. And officers of the **Downingtown Elementary Home and School Association** were Betty Busby, president; Jackie Bruton, first vice president; Cathy Bronson, second vice president; Carol Heacock, recording secretary; and Martha Broomall, corresponding secretary.
- Honored at the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League** banquet were Tom Dooley, who received the Phil Burns Memorial trophy; Brad Halderman, the American League's MVP, and Joe DeMarco, National League MVP.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 406 Santillo Way, Uwchlan, \$82,350; 1642 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$67,865; 348 Washington Ave., Downingtown, \$82,500; 225 Karen Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$53,900; 486 Fairview Road Wallace, \$66,650; 159 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$42,000; 103 Clearview Drive, East Brandywine, \$64,000.
- Down 14-0 at the half, the **DHS football team** scored twice against Spring-Ford after the intermission but the local gridders succumbed to the Rams, 21-12. Whippet TDs were scored on a 34-yard run by Teddy Robinson and an Eric Brammer pass to Bruce Tiller.
- The **DHS tennis team** finished its season with three wins—against Spring-Ford, Pottstown and Great Valley—to finish in fourth place in the Ches-Mont League with an 8-3 record. Coach Becky Desmond was especially pleased with leadership displayed by co-captains Melinda Horne, Kathy Gillooly and Vera Kockler.
- The **DHS soccer squad** qualified for the District I playoffs with a 9-3-2 record, the team's best mark since the soccer program was established. Coach Paul Hurley cited the play of Vince Forgione, Dale Russel, Dave DiEugenio, Kirt Kessler, Mike Pastino and Gary Johnson for much of the Whippets' success. After upsetting Lansdowne-Aldan 5-2, the local booters lost in the District I quarter final to Radnor, 2-0.
- Coach Sally Anderson's **DHS field hockey team** finished in fourth place in Ches-Mont action, with a 7-4 record. The Whippettes pulled a major upset when they defeated league-leading Boyertown by a 4-3 margin. Outstanding efforts by Edie Robinson, Fern Faller, Danine DiBernardi, Kelli Swartout, Julie Sten, Kim Kinney, Sherri Clayton, Sue Pease, Amy Horne, Natalie Koh, Sherri Sarmento and Jill Carbutt were cited by Anderson.

It's a fountain in Downingtown's Kerr Park



Chad McNeill is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the fountain in the photo above, which was taken by Robin Ashby. The now inoperative fountain was part of the concrete wall in Kerr Park, which includes a stairway into the park from the Lancaster Avenue bridge.

Here's a brief history of the park, including some information on the fountain, which was in the November 19, 2010 Hist-O-Gram: "Downingtown's Dr. Edward Kerr Memorial Park is one of the community's jewels. But few people realize the park's early development was one of the many private enterprises undertaken by the Downingtown Business Men's Club, forerunner of the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1927, a year after club members had underwritten the construction of Borough Hall, they decided that an overgrown, 45-acre area along Pennsylvania Avenue should be developed as a public park.

"Community leaders appointed in 1928 to a park commission to oversee the project were: Guyon Miller, chairman; Walter B. McIlvain, vice chairman; Ernest Smedley, treasurer; John Noll, secretary. Other members included: Mrs. E.B. Fisher, Frank Parke, Frank McGraw, Perry Tyson and Park Plank.

"The park was comprised of several tracts. Harbison-Walker donated 19 acres. Thomas Downing gave 11 acres. Eight acres were purchased from Mrs. Ella Roberts. Also, 5 acres were donated by the Downingtown Paper Co., and the Downingtown Iron Works contributed 2 acres.

“One of the first projects was construction of tennis courts in 1929. Fish ponds and cinder walks were completed in 1931. A baseball diamond was built in 1932. A summertime play program, supervised by the School District, was established. The concrete entrance off Lancaster Avenue, funded during the Great Depression era by President Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration, was built in 1934.

“Initially funded by public subscription and contributions by the school district, in the early years, none of the projects and programs were supported by the Borough until 1935, when Borough Council appropriated \$1,500 for the upkeep of the park.”

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Needlecraft Club at DHS in 1964-65 were, left to right, first row, Judy White, Shirley Campbell, Carol Miller; second row, Susan Blake, Debbie Pennell, Pauline Fillman; third row, Beverly Dittmer, Linda Turpin, Pat Massimimi; fourth row, Rosemary Reilly.

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

Open house

W. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Inc.



in
gloriously wooded **Colebrook Farms**

Lancaster Pike (30) to 1st crossroads W. of Estate of Creamer fence Co. turn E. on Whitford Rd. L. on Whitford Hills Rd. to Colebrook Farms.

Gracious Center Hall Colonial of white brick with 13'6"x26' living room with fireplace, unique Butler's Kitchen, Family Room with breakfast area, on wooded acre by Whitford Country Club. In historic Chester County.

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contact: **WHITFORD COUNTRY CLUB**

W. MICHAEL CONNELLY, Inc.

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This ad was originally published in the May 1, 1964 issue of the *Daily Local News*.

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

Downingtown area news 61 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the Downingtown Archive in October 1955:

- Warren Strawsnyder bought the **Cozzone Pontiac** dealership, at 148 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Anthony Cozzone had owned the dealership since 1948.
- Robert Miller and Norman Woodward were named the **Downingtown Fire Department's** Firemen of the Year.
- Connie Osborne was named the **Harvest Queen** at the DHS Farm Show. Her court included Kathy D'Attilio, Margie Eppolito, Susie McCue and Ruth Hall.
- DHS students who received awards in the Ford Motor Co. **industrial arts competition** were Robert Detterline, William Wisler, William Arters, and John Nelson.
- Beloit Iron Co. of Beloit, WI, bought the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.**, which was renamed Beloit Eastern.
- **Downingtown Paper Box Co.** announced plans to build a new plant and offices on Boot Road in East Caln.

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.

We need these DHS yearbooks

The Historical Society has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have every page of every yearbook of both of the high schools in the Downingtown School District digitized, free of charge. Please help us by donating or loaning copies of the yearbooks listed below, so we can have as many digitized yearbooks in our archival collection as possible. The missing yearbooks include:

Copies of the "Cuckoo," title of the DHS yearbook until 1955, we need: 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1951.

Copies of the DHS yearbook, when it was titled "Our Year:" 1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and copies of the DHS West edition in 2012, 2014 and 2015.

Copies of every DHS East yearbook, titled "The Prowl:" 2006 through 2015.

Please bring the yearbooks you wish to donate or loan us to: Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, which is next to the Chic-Fil-A Restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30, Downingtown. We are open from 1-4 PM on Sundays. We must have the yearbooks no later than Sunday, November 6 in order to meet the digitizing service's shipping deadline.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Halloween Parade

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM on Saturday, October 29. The parade forms at Beaver Creek School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave. and ends at Kerr Park. For more details, see:

<http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/2016%20DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN.pdf>.

Dash of the Living Dead

The Downingtown Main Street's Dash of the Living Dead will begin at 2 PM on Saturday, October 29. The course begins at the Kerr Park tennis courts and continues to Aston Avenue, back to Kerr Park, and then continues on the path to Johnsontown, and then to the finish line in Log House field. For info on registration and other details, see:

www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5.

Book Sale at Library

Downingtown Library is seeking donations of gently used adult and children's books for its huge, semi-annual book sale. NO textbooks or encyclopedias, please. Donations will be accepted thru Thursday, Oct. 13. The book sale will be held from 5 to 7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 14 and from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, October 15. Great selection of history, biography, adult and children's fiction, movies, music and more. For more info, contact the library at 610-269-2741.

Outgrown Sale

The St. James Pre-School, 409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, will have an outgrown sale of children's clothing, toys, books and maternity items from 8 AM until noon on Saturday, October 15.

War of 1812

Author and historian Gene Pisasale will present a program on "The War of 1812 - The Conflict Which Forged a New Nation" at 3:30 PM on Sunday, October 16 at the township building in Guthriesville on Route 322. Pisasale's presentation about the "forgotten war" also will include info on how the "The Star Spangled Banner" became our national anthem. For more info, contact CarolSinex@gmail.com or call 484 237-8071.

Octoberfest

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have an Octoberfest from 6:30 to 11 PM on Saturday, October 22 at the Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Tickets, \$35 per person, enable guests to enjoy dinner, drinks and dancing. For more info and to buy tickets, call 610-269-3939

Spaghetti Dinner

The Eagle-Glenmoore Lions Club will hold a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 15 in the social hall of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, at Route 100 and Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan. Call 610-635-2576 for tickets. Proceeds go to the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley and the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown.

Outgrown Sale

The St. James Pre-School, 409 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, will have an outgrown sale of children's clothing, toys, books and maternity items from 8 AM until noon on Saturday, October 15.

Pancake Breakfast

The Women's Group of Romansville United Methodist Church will have a pancake breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant, 4379 E. Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, from 8-10 AM on Saturday, October 22. For more info, call 610-486-6079.

Fall Craft Festival & Chili Cook-off

There will be a Fall Craft Festival and Chili Cook-off, plus hand-crafted items and treasures from Granny's Attic, at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza drive, Downingtown, from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 22.

Drug Take Back Event

The Downingtown Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 12th opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 22. The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

Operation Military Christmas Care

Hibernia United Methodist Church will be sending much-needed care packages to servicemen and women overseas this holiday season. Operation Military Christmas Care Package runs from September 20 through October 17. Drop-off locations include the East Brandywine Township Building and Village Hardware. Downingtown drop-off locations are: Downingtown Borough Hall, Dad n Jac's This & That, and Dane Décor. For more details and a view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf<http://www.downingtowntown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf>, or call Jane Bracken at 610-733-1212.

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.

Open Houses at Fire Companies

The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** will have its open house from 6:30 to 8:30 PM 9 PM on Wednesday, October 19. The **Lionville Fire Co.** will have its open house at 6 PM on Thursday, October 13.

Roast Beef Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, October 15. The menu will also include mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or via office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Jim Croce

Carol Sinex Schmidt, a member of the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will speak about the life and times of singer/songwriter Jim Croce, who lived in Chester County, at 7 PM Tuesday, October 18 when the West Caln Historical Society meets at the township building 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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.

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/downingtowntown-farmers-market>.

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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 <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.