



## 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 & What 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@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 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in early September 1964:

- Three “outdated” school houses faded into oblivion when the Pickering-Brandywine Jointure opened the new **Pickering Valley Elementary School** in the Eagle area. The one-room schools that were replaced by the new school were Windsor, Prospect and Font in Upper Uwchlan Township, plus the “more modern” West Pikeland School in Chester Springs. Total enrollment in the new school was 300 pupils. Carl Deutsch was the principal.
- Named to serve on a committee, which was responsible for the construction of the **Broad Run School** in West Bradford were township residents William Jones, Edward Stouff, Robert Hodge and Dr. Walter Fetherolf; plus Downingtown Area Jointure Board members Raymond Williams and W.I. Pollock.
- Thomas Brookover, a **Downingtown Paper Co.** (DOPACO) official said his firm took full responsibility for the mechanical failure that caused black soot to accidentally cover the borough’s east end on a Sunday morning. Fire companies, borough residents and DOPACO employees spent Sunday washing down houses, cars and streets, in an attempt to clean up the residue.
- Officers of the **East Brandywine 4-H Club** were Sandra Thomas, president; Lynne Forbes, vice president; Loretta Moore, treasurer; Daryl Moore, secretary; Christine Weller, recreation leader; Georgia Baker, pianist; Linda Laird and Lorraine Androwick, junior leaders.
- Fifteen-year-old Cindi Kent, of East Caln, won the **Whitford Country Club’s** women’s golf championship.

# We still 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, 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.

# It was the Brooklyn Woolen Mill in Lyndell



Shelley Francies is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century photo above as the Brooklyn Woolen Mill. The mill was established by John McClure in 1844 in Brooklyn, the name of hamlet now known as Lyndell in East Brandywine Township. Despite its name, the mill primarily produced cotton goods. After Joseph McClure--who had earned a medical degree at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia but never practiced medicine--joined the family firm, he expanded the business to include mills in nearby Milford Mills. After J. & J. Eastwood and Co. took over the business in 1890, the mill was producing between 9,000 and 14,000 yards of textiles weekly, according to Barbara Paul's "A History of East Brandywine Township." And in 1905, the Brooklyn Mill was converted into the Lyndell Paper Mill by Samuel Lemmon. The mill ceased operation in 1930. The mill site had been occupied by MacBrine's greenhouses until it closed in recent years.

## What local folks were talking about 86 years ago

Noted below are news items which were published in April 1930 issues of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- A **new high school** was the primary focus when the Downingtown School Board held a special meeting to discuss the school district's needs over the next five years. At the time, borough students in the elementary grades were split between East Ward and West Ward schools. However, West Ward School also was where students in seventh through twelfth grades were enrolled, as well. Although the stock market had crashed in October 1929, the meeting attendees had no idea that the Great Depression would last for another 10 more calamitous years. The local school directors agreed that junior high school (seventh, eighth and ninth graders)

students should be located in the planned high school building because they could share the same library, cafeteria, auditorium, gymnasium and mechanical system. And a representative of the Department of Education in Harrisburg, who attended the meeting, strongly suggested that the school district should consider the increasing number of students from outside the borough, who would be enrolling in the borough schools.

- The **Alert Fire Co.** formed a building committee, which would be responsible for the constructing a new fire house on the former Thomas Pedrick property on the north side of West Lancaster Avenue, between Downing and Stuart Avenues, in the borough. The site had been purchased for \$3,500 in 1925. Members of the committee included Elmer Schrupf, Leland Wilson, Arthur Glauner, William Barrett, Wilmer Johnson, W. I. Pollock, Josiah Phillips and William Mittel. (*Editor's Note: Building a fire station on the Pedrick site never reached fruition. Instead, the Alerts bought the Ringwalt estate on West Pennsylvania in 1940, and the fire house there was dedicated in 1941).*

- Elementary and secondary school choruses from the Downingtown District came in second in the **Chester County Singing Contest** at West Chester State College. About 80 pupils from Downingtown, under the guidance of Ruth Shumway, supervisor of music, participated in the competition. However, local folks were miffed with the judging of the Chester County Play Festival when the **DHS orchestra** didn't take first place in the competition.

- A. L. Allen, was hired to be the junior-senior high school's first director of the **physical education classes**, which were incorporated into the curriculum for the first time. Also, the School Board was seeking a site where the newly formed DHS **field hockey team** could practice and compete in matches. And DHS students were hoping that a **permanent band stand** would be built in the borough's Kerr Memorial Park so the high school band could play outdoor concerts there.

- On sale at **Gabriel's Fruit Market**, 121 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, were two dozen bananas for 25 cents. And in addition to offering pick-up and delivery service, **Parke's Dry Cleaning and Dyeing**, 1 Wallace Avenue in the borough, offered special "mourning" service.

## 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).

*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.*

**"THE BEST FOR LESS"**  
**AT**  
**-- The Publix Market --**

**SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK  
IN OUR SEA FOOD DEPARTMENT**

<b>Quality Steak Cod</b> 19c lb.	<b>FRESH SHAD</b> 25c lb.	<b>Stewing Oysters</b> 19c doz.
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**IN OUR FRUIT & VEGETABLE DEPARTMENT**

<b>RIPE BANANAS</b> 15c doz.	<b>Tender Carrots and Beets</b> 5c bunch	<b>HARD HEAD SALAD</b> 7c, 3 for 20c
<b>EATING OR COOKING APPLES</b> 19c 1-4 pk.		<b>LARGE HEAD CELERY</b> 9c, 3 for 25c
<b>SWEET JUICY ORANGES</b> 29c doz.	<b>California Sugar Peas</b> 29c 1-4 pk.	<b>WHITE MEALY POTATOES</b> 65c basket

**THE PUBLIX MARKET**  
126 East Lancaster Avenue      Downingtown, Pa.  
**PHONE 36 AND WE WILL DELIVER**

This Ad was originally published in the Downingtown Archive on April 5, 1930

## Group Photo of the Week



Pictured above are members of the Downingtown team, which won the Chester County Baseball League championship in 1946. They are shown at a banquet at Palumbo's Restaurant in Philadelphia, given by the Downingtown Lions Club. The players and Lions Club members at the dinner included, left to right: seated in the first row, "Ducky" Grimes, Bob McCaughey, "Bus" Phillips, Tony DiLuigi, Arthur Petrella, Jim Charles, Charles Sigle, Gene Burkey, Bill Kellon, Tony Mattioni, Charlie Forte and "Butch" DiBernardi; second row, seated, Ray Irons, John Johnson, Bob Ludwick, Dick Dague, "Rachel" Gazzero, "Mutt" Hummel, Carroll Gazzero, Dom Or and Tom Lee; back row, standing, Bill Mahood, Nick Zaferes, Chad Campbell, Ernie Rittenhouse, Sam Charles, Dr. George Bousum, Dr. Carl Dent, unknown bus driver, and Morris Steifel.

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *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.

### *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](http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/dash-of-the-living-dead5).

### ***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 files, 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. The deadline is October 30.

### ***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

### ***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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 until 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 o view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

[www.downingtwn.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf](http://www.downingtwn.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf)<http://www.downingtwn.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.

### ***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).