



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

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Where and What 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@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, 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.

What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of September 1980:

- The Downingtown Area Education Association, the collective bargaining unit for 374 teachers employed by the Downingtown Area School District, **went on strike** on September 4, and the district's 7,500 students got an extended summer vacation. The school board's "final offer" in a proposed three-year contract, which included a 10.4 percent increase the first year; a 9.4 percent hike the second year; and an 8.4 percent increase the third year. Negotiations continued during the strike's second week. The board's proposed package meant that a new teacher with a bachelor's degree would receive \$10,795 a year; a teacher with a master's degree and five years' experience would earn \$14,925; and a teacher with 10 years' experience, plus a master's degree, would get \$17,435.
- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, noted in his weekly column that the number of students enrolled in the school district **increased by 18 percent** in recent years. He also noted that the district would send students to the Chester County Intermediate Unit's Alternative School for the first time. The Alternative School was established to provide an option for students who had difficulty in adjusting to regular school experiences and who had special needs.
- Brian Formica was appointed chairman of the borough's **Up With Downingtown** committee, which was established to identify and attempt to solve community problems such as parking and housing.
- Coach Sally Anderson's **DHS field hockey team** had four letter winners—Julie Sten, Amy Horne, Danine DiBernardi and Sherri Sarmiento— among 17 varsity players, who had a 7-4 record in Ches-Mont action in 1979.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 327 Penwyllt Court, Uwchlan, \$59,800; 260 Corner Ketch-Lyndell Road, East Brandywine, \$49,900; 33 Creek Road, Glenmoore, \$62,500; 459 Spruce Drive, West Whiteland, \$96,987; 1502 Bondsville Road, Caln, \$40,000; 214 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$45,900; 1506 Hillcrest Drive, West Bradford, \$64,000; 8 Downing Road, East Caln, \$133,000.
- East Caln Township supervisors turned down Landhope Farms' application to build a 24/7 **convenience store** with three gas pumps on Route 113, between Woodmont Drive and Garris Road, because residents in the neighborhood said the store wasn't needed and it would create more traffic problems.
- **DHS football coach** Chic Chicchino cited the play of Teddy Robinson, Bruce Tiller, Bill Pitkin, Chet Eagles, Mike Bartone and Chris Goerlitz in a scrimmage against Conestoga.
- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Babe Ruth League** were Jack Oberle, president; Bob Stevens, vice president; Bill Hall, secretary; Ken Dunn, treasurer; Tom Donovan, player agent; Ron Savastio, equipment manager; and Paul Boggs, publicity chairman.
- Whippet coach Paul Hurley said he would be "very disappointed" if the **DHS soccer squad** was not a contender for the Ches-Mont League title. Returning lettermen included Vince Forgione, Kurt Kessler, Mike Pastino, Joe Woodward, Taylor Ward, Dale Russell, Tom Urban, Jeff Carey, Frank Pechin, Garry Johnson, Bob Trauger, Vic Johnson and Dave DiEugenio. Although Forgione's goal gave Downingtown a 1-0 lead in the first period, and Pastino scored in the third frame, the **DHS soccer squad** lost its opener to Penncrest by a 3-2 margin.

It's the intersection of Routes 113 and 30 in the borough



Don Lynn is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the intersection Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113) and East Lancaster Avenue (Route 30) in the borough. We suspect the photo was taken in the 1960s, before the New East Ward School (the school district's first Sixth Grade Center) was added to the rear of the Old East Ward School.

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.

What was happening here in September of 1955

Noted below are news items published in the *Downingtown Archive* 51 years ago:

- Plans for a **drive-in movie theatre** on Route 100 in Exton, with a 700-car capacity, were unveiled at a West Whiteland Township supervisors' meeting.
- **Mary Fazzini** received the Florence Nightingale award and was named the best all-around student nurse during the Chester County School of Nursing's commencement exercises.
- Dan Tabas announced that the **Memphis Can Co.** leased 25,000 square feet of plant space near Boot Road. The cans were to be produced for the Pillsbury mill in the adjoining building. It was estimated that the can plant would employ 1,000 people.
- New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Norman Sanders, Mrs. Edward Young, Mrs. Quayle Barlow, Mrs. Ernest Fieni, Rea Swarner, Mrs. Edward Foreman and Mrs. James Kinloch.
- Members of the committee responsible for the construction of **St. James Episcopal Church's** \$100,000 parish house were Lucy Lloyd, Anna McI. Miller, Scott Maddux, Charles Perrin, Stanley Landis, James Landis and Mrs. Neils Nelson.
- Officers of the newly formed **Future Teachers of America** chapter at DHS were Irvin Rubincam, president; Joan Piersol, vice president; Peggy McCausland, secretary; and Nancy Hadfield, treasurer.
- Enrollment in the **Wallace Township School District** grew so much that it had to re-open the one-room Seminary School.

Vintage Ad of the Week



DOWNINGTOWN PARK
330 East Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown
Chester County's Most Desirable Apartments

Color  Appliances
Rentals From **\$9500**

Deluxe Nylon WALL-TO-WALL CARPETING
included with each apartment

WHERE ELSE WILL YOU FIND ALL THIS?

- GE Refrigerator, Garbage Disposal, Electric Range
- GE Air Conditioning and Individually Controlled Hot Water Heat
- Venetian Blinds, Screens and Coin Operated Laundry Facilities
- Loads of Off-Street Parking
- Hall Foyer and Court Lighting Through Evening
- Adjacent to Shopping Center, Schools, Churches
- Expressway Minutes Away

NOW ACCEPTING ADVANCE RESERVATIONS
Limited Professional Space Available

PERRY
Managing Realtor
Call 363-7600

This ad was originally published in the July 10, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

Group Photo of the Week



Sporting their new uniforms in the photo above are members of the Alert Fire Company's fire police unit sometime in the 1930s. They included, left to right: Clarence Clarkson, William Backenstose, Sr., Marcus Ward, Gerald Lyons, Harry Paul and Paul Backenstose. Each of them was packing heat, although their guns and holsters are difficult to see in this photo because they blend in with the dark uniforms.

Miss a Hist-O-Gram in August?

If you missed any of the Hist-O-Grams we released in August, here's how you can still access them:

August 4: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%204%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 11: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 18: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2018%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 25: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2025%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.



Woody Sbei is shown blowing out the candles on the cake at his 100th birthday celebration given by fellow members of the Lookin' Good lunch group, which gets together every Thursday at Pronto Restaurant in Thorndale. State Rep. Harry Lewis Jr. presented a congratulatory proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Woody Sbei celebrates 100th birthday

Querino “Woody” Sbei, , a son of Rose and Albert Sbei, who was born in Downingtown on August 24, 1916, recently celebrated his 100th birthday. A 1936 graduate of Downingtown High School, Woody was captain of the gymnastics team, manager of the football team, and a pole vaulter and broad jumper on the track and field team.

He married Mary Farnum in St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Downingtown on September 6, 1939. The Sbei family now includes four children—Eileen, Doreen, Marlene and Joseph—nine grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. After working in construction for his uncle in Ohio for several years, Woody began a career with the Philadelphia Electric Co. in 1944. He retired from PECO in 1984, as a supervisor.

Woody passed Federal Communications Commission examinations, to earn an Amateur Radio license in 1952, and he continues to hold that license. In the early years, he enjoyed building his own amateur radio equipment, antennas and power supplies to use with his radio gear. He loved to climb towers and do his own antenna work, as well as for other ham radio operators. His favorite means of chatting with people as far away as South Africa and New Zealand was by employing his expertise in high-speed Morse Code. He was an active member for many years of two ham radio organizations.

Please come to our Clip/Paste sessions

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, September 4. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Community Day

Caln Township's Community Day will be held from 3-8:30 PM on Saturday, September 10 on G.O. Carlson Blvd., between Municipal and Thornridge Drives. Activities and events will include fireworks, a beer garden, a petting zoo, pony rides, moon bounces, a zip line, a dunk tank, and a car smash. For more info, check out: www.calntownship.org/details.html.

Clam Bake

Lionville Fire Co. will have annual Clam Bake from 1 -7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 4. Tickets are: \$40 for 3 Dozen clams; all you can eat corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, Fred's homemade clam chowder; drinks, including beer. \$20 kids' (3-12) tickets do not include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament. For details, see: www.lionvillefire.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=437.

Barley Sheaf Players

The Barley Sheaf Players, a community theatre at 810 North Whitford Road in Lionville, will present "Hay-Fever," where four unsuspecting guests of the Bliss family discover that a weekend in the idyllic English countryside can be anything but blissful. This witty comedy of manners becomes a hilarious, roaring 20s farce. Ticket Prices: adults, \$17; students (18 and under) and seniors (60 and over), \$13 Call 610-363-7075 to reserve seats. For more details, check out: www.barleysheaf.org/Show.aspx/99/Hay-Fever.

Teri's Run

The 15th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk for Scleroderma will be held at 7 PM on Friday, September 9 in Downingtown. Teri's Run is dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. Details and online registration are available via: www.terisrun.org.

Downingtown Library Programs

Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include: On "Touch a Truck Day," kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10. For more info on all the Library's programs, check out: www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs.

Boys of the Civil War

Joel A. Moore, former educator, historian, and author, will talk about boys as young as 10 years of age who fought in the American Civil War at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome, with no charge.

Library Love

Roberts Subaru will sponsor the Library Love fun night from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 29 at the Downingtown Country Club. In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, there will be auctions and a raffle. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds go to the Downingtown Library. For more info, see: <http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/LibraryLove9-29-16.jpg>,

Artists & Crafters Wanted

The Downingtown Historic Commission will hold its annual Log House Art & Craft Show, 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, September 17 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Vendors may rent a space for \$25. Deadline to register is September 9. Details can be found at the Borough of Downingtown's website: www.downingtowntown.org.

Blood Drive

Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Thursday, September 1 at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up, access: www.downingtowntown.org.

Fall Fest

The annual Fall Fest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and presented by the Victory brewing Co. and the Borough of Downingtown, will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 25 on Green Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown, For details, see:

<http://downingtowntownfallfest.com/index.html>.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday, September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowntowntown.com
For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or email goo1966@verizon.net, or call 610-745-0864.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1986 will have its 30th Reunion, from 6-10 PM on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Brickside Grille, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. For more info, email dhs86reunion@gmail.com or see the DHS Class of 1986 Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/113326642077578/.

Trimbleville Historical Marker

Friends of Martin's Tavern invites everyone to join them in the unveiling of the Trimbleville historical marker at 311 Broad Run Road, West Bradford. The marker commemorates the role the hamlet of Trimbleville played in the Revolutionary War, and in the cultural heritage of colonial America. The program & dedication will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, September 11.

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>.

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: JPC Cheryl@verizon.net.