



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 scene 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 was happening here in early August 1964

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

- Pittsburgh Steel Co. announced plans to acquire a 50,000 square-foot structure in the Downingtown area from Tabas Enterprises. The firm said it would produce steel rods, wire and wire products. And **Pepperidge Farms Inc.** executives said they planned to build a 40,000 square-foot addition to their building on Chestnut Street, making room for another oven and more warehouse space.
- Trained drivers of the **Minquas Fire Co. ambulance corps** included Hallan Usher, Ernest and Duer Smedley, Lew Pyle, Charles Bloom, William Wilmot, Joseph Miller, Earl Gillespie, James Mitchell, Harry Shreiner, Earl Parker, Gene Reinhardt, Robert Wright and Frank Baen. When the service was established in 1923, the Minquas ambulance was a used car which had been modified to transport the sick and injured. But by 1964, the ambulance was a “fully-equipped,” \$14,000 Cadillac that responded to an average of 20 calls a month.
- The teaching staff at the **Downingtown Friends School** included Mrs. Josie Caruthers, nursery; Mrs. Frances Ash, kindergarten; Mrs. Lucille Germain, first grade; and Mrs. Jeanette Elston, second and third grades.
- Members of the **Lionville Fire Co.** who won the tug-of-war championship at the Goshen Fair were George Ruark, Harold Trego, John Trego, Jake Dewees, Louis Dewees, Charles Young, Francis Hill, Carl Ruth, Fred Schlimme and Howard Edwards.
- A survey of residents by the **Wallace Township** planning commission determined that: 92 percent of the 293 residences were single-family homes; 133 of the families had two cars, 88 had one car, and 18 didn't own a car.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52, Marshallton**, who earned junior leader training patches included Charles Fitzgerald, Larry Amoriello, Joe Kirkner, Daniel Hoxter, Peter Griggs, Ronald Cogan and Douglas Barr.
- The teaching staff of the primary grades at the Vacation Bible School, conducted by **St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Lionville**, included: Martha Matthews, Cathy Reichard, Mary Ellen Fagley, Mrs. Dale Coover, Mrs. Floyd Reber, Mrs. Lawrence Borne and Linda Davis.
- Winners of the flower show contest at the **East Ward School playground** were Beverly Reutter, Kathy Murphy, Pam Osborn and Terri Sheehan.
- Approximately 150 firemen from nine companies responded to a fire that destroyed the **Green Bank School barn** and several pieces of farm equipment, owned by Mrs. Joseph Gibbons in Upper Uwchlan. The fire also attracted about 200 motorists, whose vehicles caused a huge traffic jam, making it difficult for fire trucks to reach the scene.
- An Olympic-size swimming pool was the latest addition to **Camp Indian Run**, the 152-acre camp site in Wallace Township, operated by the Philadelphia Girl Scout Council.

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.

It was a cabin at the YMCA Camp in West Bradford



Tommy Lee is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the structure in the photo above as one of the cabins at the YMCA Camp in West Bradford. The camp was operated in West Bradford, near the Downingtown border, from 1895 until 1984 by the Philadelphia YMCA. Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of his farmland to be developed into the camp. The former camp site now is the Brandywine Ridge development.

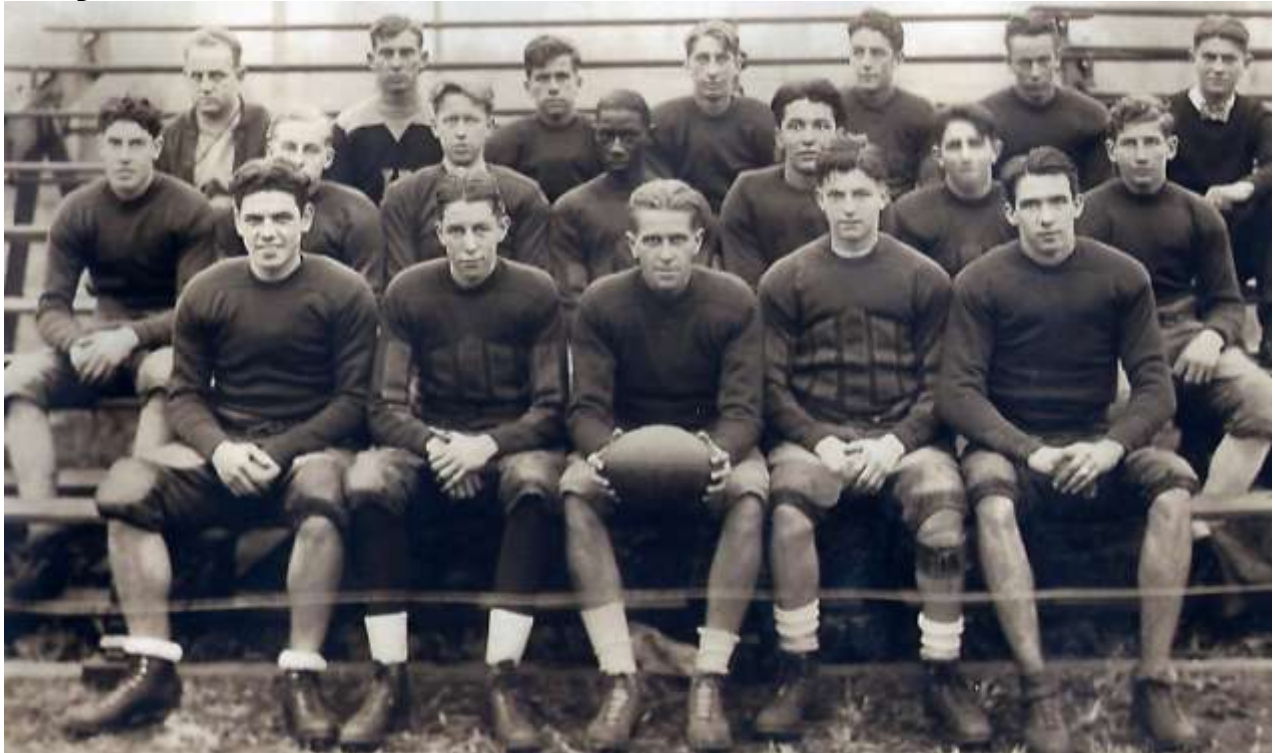
What local people were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspaper in early February 1949:

- Borough Council agreed to increase the **amusement tax** by 10 percent, which was applied to admission fees for sports events, movies and theatre shows, and use of pinball machines.
- The **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club's** "Mammies Minstrel" drew a capacity audience to the West Ward School auditorium. Mrs. Robert Hadfield was the interlocutor, and Mrs. Harry Simmons, Mrs. Arthur Anderson, Mrs. Horace Miller and Mrs. Donald White were the "endmen." Members of the chorus were Mrs. Ogier Norris, Mrs. Charles Menas, Mrs. James Newcombe, Mrs. Robert Williams, Mary Jane Pawling and Jane Fennelly.
- Downingtown elementary school students, who participated in a **music recital** included piano soloists Tommy Brookover, Kathleen D'Attilio, Ross Ney, Gayle Miller, Helen Burkhardt, Sallie Johnson, Gerry Deets, Jean Bicking Susie Norris, Mary Jane Jameson, Mina DiBerardinis, Virginia Nixdorf, Gerald Williams, Marcia Ann Chambers and Carol Lee Bruton.

- DHS students chosen to participate in the Southeastern **District Chorus** concert at Upper Darby High School were Mena Cozzone, Margaret Sciarretta, Marguerite Ciarlone, Eleanor Detterline, Joan Lenhardt, Mae Hertel, John Shisler, Gordon Carpenter and Ronald Hogg.
- **Marshallton Girl Scouts** who were appointed as patrol leaders were: Troop 10, led by Dorothy Gray—Betty Palmer, Glenna Hurley and Nancy Ford; Troop 34, led by Mrs. Marshall Chambers and Vera Woodward—June Ellingsworth, Sue Palmer and Jo-Anne LeFevre.
- Officers of **Messiah Lutheran Church's** Ladies Bible Class were Mrs. Joseph Streamer, president; Mrs. James Lynn, secretary; Mrs. Karl Klunder, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Runk and Mrs. Edward Murray, teachers.
- More than 150 people attended the deer and bear banquet put on by the **Glen Valley Hunt Club of Glen Moore**. Kenneth Comstock and Leroy McConnell furnished the deer, and Guy Mercer provided the bear. Following the dinner, Betty Jean Halpin entertained with several dance acts, and the Guy Mercer Orchestra played music for dancing. The Glen Moore Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary served the meal.
- **Lionville Cub Scouts**, who attended a National Scout Week service at Grove Methodist Church, were Robert Peoples, Marvin Jenkins, John Benner, Robert Ross, Jerry Stinson, Larry Stine and Robert Spies.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS Football team ca. 1929- 1930 were, according to a list of names on the back of the original photo, left right: front row, Harold Forbes, George Snyder, Earl Fulton, Nelson Norris, Donald Dixon; middle row, Bill Showalter, Newlin Moore, Ross Dague, Nip Westmoreland, June Pawling, unknown and unknown; top row, Coach Spurgeon Gingrich, Assistant Coach ? Allen, Ralph Katherman, Parker Irwin, Charles Horning, Harry Deets and Manager James Mahan.

Vintage Ad of the Week

before the flies
move in —



SCREEN WITH
PEARL Wire Cloth
Outwears Galvanized Wire Cloth Several Times

Don't Wait

Shut out mosquitoes and flies.
They are carriers of diseases.
Keep them out with PEARL Wire Cloth.
Due to its metallic coating, PEARL is a guarantee
of beauty and long life—the most handsome and
economical screen wire cloth.
We carry the genuine—two copper wires in the
selvage. PEARL outwears galvanized cloth several
times.

OIL, GAS and ELECTRIC STOVES
LAWN MOWERS GARDEN TOOLS
GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS
GENERAL ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS

Theo. M. Griffith & Son
DOWNTOWN, PA.

This ad was originally published in the May 4, 1929 edition of *The Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Clothing Drive

There will be a drive for fall/winter clothing at the Christian Faith Fellowship, 156 Wallace Ave., Downingtown. Drop-off dates are 5:30-7:30 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 14 and 21; 11 AM-1 PM on Thursday, Sept. 15 and 22; 10 AM-12 noon on Saturday, Sept. 24. For more info, check out:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/CFFClothingDriveSept2016.pdf>.

Child Safety Seat Checks

The PA State Police will have certified child passenger safety technicians checking car seats for proper installation at the West Bradford Fire Co. substation, 1385 Campus Drive, from 2-8 PM on Wednesday, **Sept. 21**. Parents and caregivers will be educated on how to choose the right car seat and how to properly install them in their vehicles.

This event is part of the National Child Passenger week and is free to the public. Appointments are not required, but are recommended. For appointments, contact Trooper Gonzalez at (610) 486-6181.

Blood Drive at St. Elizabeth's

A Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, at Route 100 and Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan, will be held from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 24. You can register via: www.redcrossblood.org. For more info, call Matthew Ward at 610-873-0275.

5K and Fun Run

The Downingtown Community Education Foundation will host a Super Hero 5K race and a 1-mile fun run on Saturday, September 24 in the Town Center at Eagleview. The fun run will be at 9 AM and the 5K will start at 9:15 AM. For more details, see: www.dcef.org or contact Jackie Fenn at jfenn@decf.org.

Church History Tour

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture and tour on the 200-year history of Hopewell United Methodist Church, located at 825 Hopewell Road from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, September 18.

Blood Drive in E. Brandywine

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be conducted at the East Brandywine township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, from 2-7 PM on Wednesday, September 21. Call 1-899-733-3267 to schedule your appointment.

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://downingtowntown.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:

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

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://downingtowfallfest.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.golfdowningtow.com. For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or call 610-745-0864.

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/downingtow-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 <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.