



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

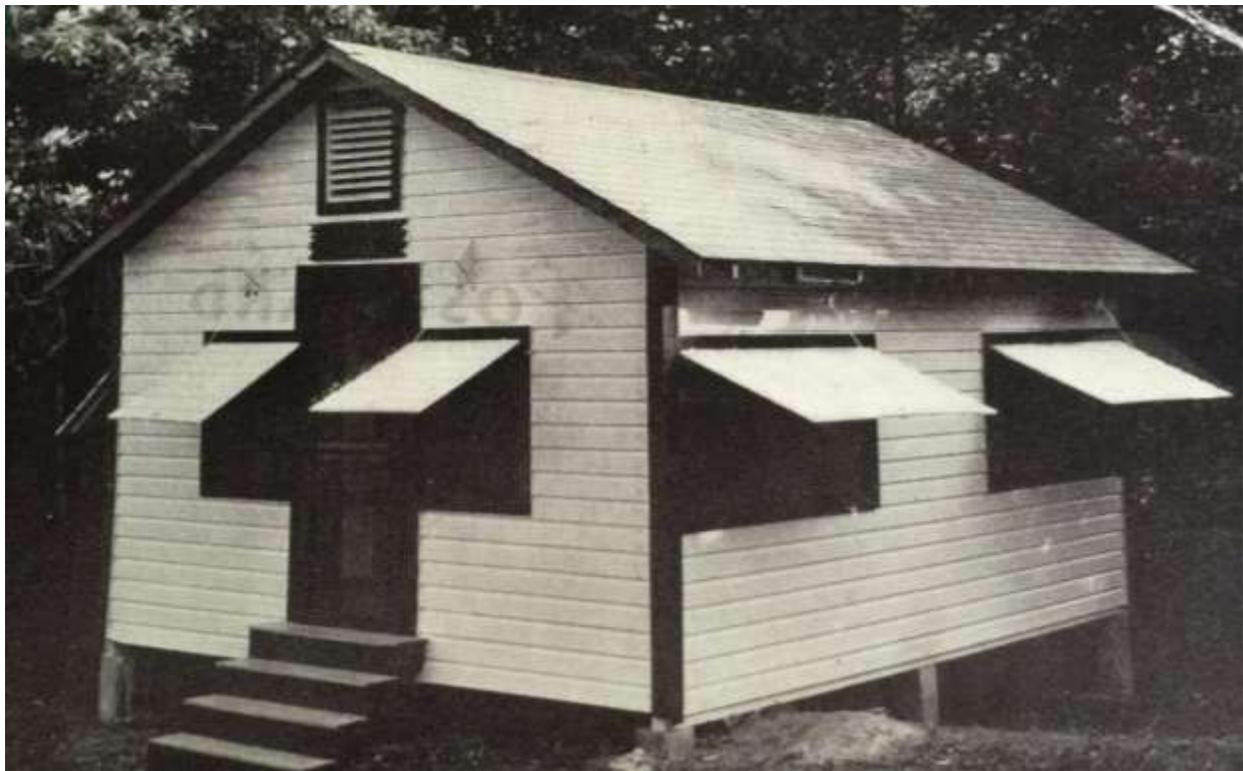
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 35

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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.

Teachers' strike continued through September

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

- Although the School Board and the Downingtown Area Education Association (the teachers' collective bargaining unit) claimed "substantial progress" had been made, the 374 teachers in the Downingtown Area School District **continued their strike** through the end of September. And there were no reported incidents when substitute teachers and school buses crossed picket lines around the high school when 550 DHS seniors reported for classes on September 23. Classes offered were English, mathematics, social studies, science, and physical education. Some of the classes at DHS were taught by school district principals and administrators. Classes in other subjects were to be made up when the strike was over. Also, principals and other district administrators took over responsibility for DHS's fall sports and marching band programs.

- Harold Ziserman, who had served on the **Wallace Township** board of supervisors from 1972 through 1977, was appointed to the board, replacing Kenneth Comstock, who had resigned because he was moving from Glenmoore. However, Ziserman said he would only serve one year, to complete Comstock's unexpired term.

- **Speedy Print Shop** won the Downingtown Slo-Pitch League for the second consecutive year by winning three out of five games in playoffs against Burroughs. Speedy's Dean Kaley was the winning pitcher in the fifth game. The Printers' played long ball in the playoffs, hitting a total of 13 homers. Those who hit round-trippers were: Carl Bleacher four; Ron Dankanich, three; Larry Cornell, two; and Butch Scott, Kaley, John Yarov and Joe Ballentine, one each.

- **Recent property transfers** included: 100 Governor's Circle, East Brandywine, \$74,500; 394 Devon Drive, Uwchlan, \$70,375; 1652 Carlisle Road, West Bradford, \$56,820; 447 Spruce Drive, West Whiteland, \$88,050; 305 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, \$74,500; 11 Lisa Drive, Caln, \$45,390; 519 Saybrooke Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$90,585.

- Those who received outstanding service plaques at the annual banquet of the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** were John Piersol, Chester Smith, Corrine O'Neill, Dot Piersol, Scott Piersol, John Schmidt and Rich O'Neill.

- Former DHS football star **Charlie Way** was honored before the Penn State-Nebraska game at University Park on September 27, 1980 because that was the 60th anniversary of the first time the Nittany Lions faced the Cornhuskers, which Penn State won 20-0. Way scored one TD and later "broke the game open" with a 60-yard run. He was named to Walter Camp's 1920 All-America team; Notre Dame's George Gipp was the other halfback.

- The **DHS tennis team**, coached by Dr. Walter Kottmeyer due to the teachers' strike, opened its season with a win over St. Pius X. Whippets who swept the doubles competition, were Debbie Hartman-Vera Kockler, Rochelle Buhr-Cindy Lichok, and Jane Gerlach-Arlene Murtaugh. Singles winners for DHS were Sara Nothstine and Kathleen Gillooly.

- Ed Spang, acting coach of the **DHS soccer team**, was "disappointed" with the Whippets' 1-1 tie with Boyertown because "we dominated play." Mike Pastino scored Downingtown's lone goal, with an assist by Kurt Kessler.

- Members of the **Pennypacker Country Club** swim team, who were named as the top competitors in their age brackets, were Lauren Gardiner, Rod Bell, Lisa Myers, Paula West, Jeff Ungvary, Steve Petrie, Cathy Palski, Mike Ungvary, Maribeth Ficca and Charles Messa.

It was an orphanage at Yellow Springs for Civil War vets' kids



Dan Lindley is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above, as the state-run orphanage for children of Civil War veterans in the village of Yellow Springs, which was operated in the Washington building between 1868 and 1912 in West Pikeland. The boys, wearing military-style uniforms, are lined up in front, and the girls are in front of the porch. The Washington building on Art School Road, near Route 113, had also been used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War and a health spa in the 18th Century. And between 1916 and 1952, the village served as the site of a country art school operated in the summer by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. From 1952 until 1974, it was the headquarters of the Good News Productions movie studio, which created over 400 films, including the sci-fi cult film classic “The Blob.” Since 1974, Historic Yellow Springs Inc. has preserved many of the village’s original structures and educates visitors about its unique past. For more info on Yellow Springs, see: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacheste/chester_sos.htm.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Vintage Ad of the Week



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This ad was first published in the September 7, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

What local people were talking about 87 years ago

Noted below are news items published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the Spring of 1929:

- Members of the **Minquas Fire Co.** voted to spend about \$12,000 to upgrade its service performance and improve the fire house. The projected costs included \$3,000 to purchase a “fine modern squad wagon,” and \$3,300 to be used to install three bowling alleys on the ground floor. Also, the pool tables were to be moved up to the second floor, and entrance to the gymnasium upstairs would be limited to the west side of the fire house.
- A campaign to raise \$500 for uniforms, to be worn by the Downingtown **American Legion Post’s** firing squad on ceremonial occasions such as veterans’ burials, was begun.
- Benjamin Markward, **Downingtown police chief**, handed in his resignation after being suspended for unknown reasons by Downingtown’s burgess. Subsequently, he was hired as a salesman by the **B. F. Leaman & Sons** car (Hudson and Essex) dealership at 520 E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough.
- Some 30 **DHS seniors** in the Class of 1929 were expected to graduate in commencement ceremonies at the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue. Dewitt Essick was the valedictorian and Norman Algier was the salutatorian.
- The Boys Work Committee of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**, chaired by Raymond Greenleaf, put on a program for local boys over the age of 14 in the DHS auditorium. In addition to a magic act, a concert by the high school band, and an illustrated lecture on birds and mammals, the program included the awarding of medals to Oliver Nichols, who won the Downingtown and Chester County marbles championships, and would compete for the state title.



Tom Lee donates vintage Alert Fire Co. parade uniform shirt to Historical Society

Tom Lee, who has served in leadership positions with the Alert Fire Company in Downingtown for nearly 50 years, recently donated a vintage parade uniform shirt from his personal collection of firefighting memorabilia.

The shirt had been owned and worn by Arthur Glauner in the early 20th Century. A community leader, Glauner (1877-1974) was the Alert Fire Company’s financial secretary for several decades. He also served on Borough Council in the early 20th Century, and was president of the Brandywine Building and Loan Association during the post-World War II era.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS basketball team in 1930 were, left to right: front row, Nelson Norris, Donald Dixon, George Snyder, Earl Fulton and Harry Deets; back row, Earl Entrekin, Harry Deets, Coach Merle Brown, Joe Sciaretta and James Mahan.

Officers of the Downtowner 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.downingtown.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://downingtowntfallfest.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.golfdowningtowntown.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/downingtownt-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: JPCheryl@verizon.net.