



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. 8, No. 31

August 3, 2017

What and Where 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: dahs19335@gmail.com.

Access to latest historic “Then & Now” photo sequences

You can see all of the “Then & Now” morphed photo sequences of local historic sites on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B_uVb6lhZku7mw

What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in early August 1981:

- The 19th annual production of the Passion Play, performed by the Hilltoppers from **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, attracted 9,840 people. And officers of the WISH group at Hopewell were Gail Rodgers, president; Debbie Martin, vice president; Cindy Long, secretary; and Ann Taylor, treasurer.
- Members of the **Downingtown Senior Center**, who spent a week at Windy Knoll Camp in Spring City, were Edna Bryant, Mary Foster, Marie Hamilton, Frances and George McAllister, Elizabeth Ruby and Gertrude Woodward.
- Winners in a junior tennis tournament at **Pennypacker Country Club** included: Ray Hunter and Jody Shrum, 10 and under singles; Steve Hermann and Paula West, 12 and under singles; Greg Dommel and Paula West, 14 and under singles; Brian Wills and Gwen Holtan, 16 and under singles. And members of the Lobsters, which won the **Downingtown Team Tennis** competition, included Jonathon Kemmerley, Kyle and Ford Hamilton, Michel and Billy Walsh, Dana Kohler, Chris Remley and David Jemison.
- Winners in bicycle competition at the **Lionville Playground** were Jeff Heckman, Kristen Kolar, Anna Welch and Kathy Wethman. And winners of 100-yard dash races at the **Beaver Creek Playground** were Carolyn McClain, Julie Smith, Jamie Smith and Terri Phillips.
- Local students who made the dean's list at **Bucknell University** were John Dagher, Amy Sten, David Kucera and Anne Kennedy. And the dean's list at **Bloomsburg State College** included these area students: Barbara Bradley, Elizabeth Smaltz, Cindy Hart and Debra Parry.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 19 Parkside Ave., Caln, \$26,600; 1407 Dodd Drive, West Bradford, \$62,060; 230 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$89,900; 569 Hopewell Road, East Brandywine, \$62,000; 4 Matisse Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$142,900; 53 Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$97,500; 231 Prospect Ave., Downingtown, \$37,000.
- Thomas C. Medford Inc. was selling **heating oil** for \$1.16 a gallon.
- Kids who earned gold medals for reading at least 30 books in the Reading Olympics at the **Downingtown Library** were Joanne Bennett, Eleanor Buffam, Matthew Carpenter, Bill Croft, Annette and Heather Hill, Jason Hoch, Kelley Kometa, Marc Madden, Ross Miles, Kay Lynne Parry and Suzanne Schmidt.
- The recently organized **Downingtown-Uwchlan Community Band**, directed by Jeff Martini, had its first concert, in the Lionville Junior High School auditorium.
- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** broke a long-standing tradition when it offered shrimp, instead of clams, as the main dish at its annual bake on the McCahon Farm on Route 30 in West Whiteland. The change was made, said bake chairman Bob Cropper, because suppliers couldn't promise that they could provide 20,000 clams the day before the bake.

It was the auditorium at West Ward School



Caroline Ash is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the auditorium of the West Ward School on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough. Built in 1910, at a cost of \$60,000, the school was initially known as the Central School because it was the only public school facility in Downingtown, and grades 1-12 were taught there, until East Ward School, built for \$100,000, opened in 1924, and the junior-senior high school on Manor Avenue, constructed for \$160,000, opened in 1932. West Ward was razed in 1958. Jeanne Emery, whose father was principal of the school, provided the photo.

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. Also on the **right side of the home page of our website**, you'll find access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.

What was happening here in August 1956

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* 61 years ago:

- Hopes for a **new Post Office** in the borough were boosted when Congressman Paul Dague revealed that the land required for the new facility was being reviewed by federal officials. Meanwhile, Downingtown Council notified the Post Office Department that the current, one-year lease of space in Borough Hall would expire in 13 months and not be renewed.
- Homes in the **Foxcroft** development (soon to be enveloped by the Sunnybrook development) in the east end of Downingtown were selling for \$14,100.
- Doug Hetrick won the Downingtown **Junior Tennis Tournament**. Pete Sarmiento was the runner-up.
- Judy Hogan and Marie Quartucci, both of Glen Moore, appeared on Bob Horne's **Bandstand TV show**, which would be hosted in later years by Dick Clark.
- Mark Moore started selling gas at his **service station on Route 100** in Eagle in 1919. But his sons--Ralph and Paul--recently took over the business, stopped selling gas and limited the operation to mechanical repairs.
- **Girl Scouts from Glen Moore**, who spent five days camping on the lawn of Fairview Presbyterian Church, included Ann Williamson, Chris and Bitty Kelley, Sally, Ann and Susan Galt, Patty Houck, Paula Shrader, Bonnie Moore, Mary Ann and Marlene Harple, Kathy Bingaman, Peggy and Karen Funk, Ellen Mercer and Joan Stevens.
- Rev. William Fenerty, pastor of **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, said he hoped the parish's elementary school would be expanded to include a high school.
- Winners in the doll show at **East Ward Playground** were Sally Peoples and Barbara Black, biggest; Donna Hilton, oldest; Judy DiFonzo and Vickie Short, prettiest; Pam Davis and Debbie Short, most original; Doreen Davis, smallest; Linda Lou Lynn and Thelma Warren, best dressed; and Beverly Mitchell, prettiest bride doll.
- Members of the **Downingtown Babe Ruth League** all-star team were Robert Lee, Buddy White, Tim Panik, Larry McKinney, John Graveno, Anthony Antonelli, Kenny Van Lew, Frank Marcocci, Joseph Godlewski, Frank Kuch, Tim Mahan, John Snyder and Pete Karahalas.
- Downingtown officials turned down a request to annex the **Whitford Country Club** property since boroughs were only allowed to annex land that was contiguous to the borough.
- Eleanor and Mary Bartol, of Springton Manor in Wallace Township, informed Peter Short, chairman of the Kerr Memorial Park Commission, that they were going to donate \$1,000 to build a **wading pool in the park**. Excavation work for the pool was underway.
- Members of the **Downingtown Little League** all-star team were Tom Yerkes, Paul Miller, Robert Roussey, David Radcliffe, George Murphy, Sam Westmoreland, Pete Bousum, Clifford Jackson, Philip Girafalco, Joseph D'Attilio, George Miller, Elwood Stringer, Dave Pollock and James Price.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Phil Dague, president; Jim Sundman, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Lauren Fagan, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Jay Worrall and Robin Ashby. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**GRAND OPENING
OF THE
Downtown Dining Room
and Soda Grill
Saturday Nov. 5, 1932
to which everyone is invited**

The opening of this delightful new eating place will be signaled by the distribution of appropriate favors to all who attend.

AN ORCHESTRA WILL FURNISH MUSIC

**Children To Call Between
10 and 12 O'clock**

Located at 135 E. Lincoln Highway

CHRIST NICHOLAS, Prop.

This ad was originally published in the November 3, 1932 edition of the *Downtown Archive*.

Clip/Paste sessions slated for Sunday

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste session, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, August 6. The session, which involves clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Group Photo of the Week



Three of the featured speakers for the Historical Society's "Growing Up Italian-American in Downingtown" program, held at St. Anthony's Lodge in May 2008, were, left to right, Jim Mascherino, Rose Castaldi and Ben Valocchi.

In case you missed any Hist-O-Gram published in July

Here's a list of Hist-O-Grams we published in July in case you missed any of them:

July 6 edition: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/July%206%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

July 13 edition: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2013%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

July 20 edition: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2020%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

July 27 edition: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2027%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Correction

Several oldtimers brought it to our attention that the photo of the Senior High School Choir in last week's Hist-O-Gram was not taken in 1950. Further research determined that the **photo was taken in 1947**. By the way, that snafu provides a wonderful opportunity for us to make another pitch for Hist-O-Gram subscribers to provide with group (at least four people) pictures for our weekly Group Photo of the Week section. We're talking about shots of classes, sports teams, scout troops, etc., which include 80% of the names of individuals in the photo.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Movie & Ice Cream

The free movie "Moana" will be shown and ice cream (only \$1) will be served at Broad Run Park in West Bradford at 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 3.

Summer Movie in Caln

Caln Township's Parks and Recreation Board presents "Penquins of Madagascar" for the last of the annual summer movie series, starting at 6:30 PM on Friday, August 18. Also, enjoy inflatable attractions, a DJ, the playground and food trucks. Once the sun goes down, sit under the stars and enjoy free popcorn and a movie in the park. Movies kick off around 8:30 PM. Bring chairs and blankets.

Community Day & Run For Parks

East Brandywine's Community Day will be held from 11 AM until 3 PM on Saturday, August 19 at the township's Community Park. New this year are: Kid's Fun Zone—moon bounces, climbing wall, bungee jumps, spider climb, giant swings and more. For \$20 all ages can enjoy a super time filled with exercise and fun all day. And the East Brandywine Cup will be back—An opportunity for a team of 8 can win \$500 for their non-profit charity. Fun challenging events such as Flick the Chicken, the Egg Toss, Corn Cobb Toss will keep you entertained. Other events and activities include an antique & classic car show, crafters, pony & hay rides, bingo, food and music.

At dark, the Fire Company will provide fireworks to end the evening. If you would like to be a part of this year's Community Day, contact Sandy Lammey at parkandrec@ebrandywine.org or Dave Summers at dsummers@ebrandywine.org or by leaving a message at the township office at 610-269-8230.

The fourth annual Run For Parks also will be held on Saturday, August 19. To register and for details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/calendar.aspx?EID=801.

Strikeouts for Katie

The fourth annual Strikeouts for Katie Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 26 on the Downingtown Little League field on Manor Avenue, Downingtown. Proceeds will be used for scholarships to active participants attending the Technical College High School-Brandywine Campus, cosmetology program, and to a graduating senior from DHS West girls' softball program, as well as being used for sponsoring numerous charity events. For more details, see: www.strikeoutforkatie.com.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, is hosting a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, August 12. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Cost is \$13/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age) if ordered before August 7 and \$15/\$5 at the door. Contact the church office at [610-696-5247](tel:6106965247) or office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Mill at Anselma

The Mill at Anselma will sponsor a program by Dr. Steve Gimber, director of the American Studies program at West Chester University, who will speak on New Sweden: Life on the Lower Delaware 1638 – 1655 at 7 PM on

Thursday, August 3, at the Bell Hall at The Montgomery School on Route 113, Chester Springs. There will be a wine & cheese reception at 6:30 PM. Admission is free to Mill at Anselma members; otherwise it's \$5 per person. More info: 610-827-1906.

The Mill at Anselma, on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, open for tours Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Visitors will learn how a mill was operated, see the 16 foot water wheel power Colonial-era gears and mill stones, and see and feel the final product as it flows from the stones. Admission to the Mill is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free. For more information, contact the Mill at 610-827-1906, email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org.

Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown., will have its annual Chicken-Bar-B-Cue on Saturday, August 19 .

Log House Art & Craft Show

Downingtown's Historic Commission is looking for exhibitors who plan to sell original, hand-crafted items at the annual Art & Craft Show from 9 AM to 2 PM Saturday, September 9 at Kerr Park. For details, see:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Log%20House%20Craft%20Show/2017/2017LOGHOUSEARTCRAFTSHOWAPP.pdf>

Senior Center programs & activities

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center in its monthly newsletter at: www.downingtowntownseniors.org/programs/newsletter/

Open Houses in Lionville

The Uwchlan Township Historical Commission will offer several open house events in the Lionville National Historic District on the first Sunday of the month, from April through November, at the John Cadwalader House and the Edith P. Moore School. Both are located on North Village Avenue and are staffed and open from 2 - 4 PM. The Moore School is the original one room building where children can try on clothing replicas of the period and sit at historical desks. For more info, call 610-280-9522.

Lyme Disease

The Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, an education and support group for patients and caregivers who have been affected by Lyme Disease, meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Kennett Friends Meeting House on Route 82 (125 W. Sickel St. Kennett Square). Meetings are free and all are welcome. Check www.lymepa.org for directions and program information.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darc.info/. 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, <http://josephspeople.org/our-chapters/downingtowntown/>, 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: cheryl.spaulding@josephspeople.org.