



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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What & Where 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 was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of January 1981:

- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District, reported that the district had **spent \$2,297 per pupil** in the 1980-81 school year. That meant Downingtown ranked ninth among the 12 districts in Chester County. The expenditures per pupil in the county's 12 districts ranged from \$3,472 to \$2,030. And Downingtown ranked 11th among the 12 school districts' real estate rates for the 1981-82 school year.

- History was made in Downingtown, when **two women**—Jennie Freas and Mary Burns—were elected to Borough Council. DHS teacher Marian Phillips had been a member of Borough Council in the late 1950s, but she had been appointed to the post to fill an unexpired term. Also sworn in was Mayor George Quinn, who succeeded John Fiore.

- The Tabas Hotel on Route 30 in East Caln was permitted to install large pictures of **Mickey Rooney** on the exterior walls at both ends of the hotel.

- **Community Service Providers**, a private, non-profit firm which trained Chester County residents who had a history of chronic mental illness, was established in the Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Lionville.

- A new church—**Thorndale Baptist Chapel**—began to have services in a building at Shannon Memorial Airport on Thorndale-Marshallton Road in West Bradford Township. Rev. John McJilton was the pastor.

- Members of the committee studying the possible construction of an addition at **Lionville Community Church** included Harry Boyanoski, Bob Thorne, Ed Butts, Craig Lenius, Ann Chan, Bob Clark and Jim Erwin.

- The **DHS girls' basketball squad** won the Knights of Columbus Holiday Tournament, after defeating Sharon Hill in overtime and clobbering Conestoga in the final. Beth Beebe was named the tournament MVP, and Dori Barton and Connie Kramer made the all-tourney team.

- The **DHS boys' basketball team** reached the finals of the Knights of Columbus Holiday Tournament by beating Chichester 81-65 and Upper Darby 68-50. But the Whippets succumbed to Philadelphia's Edison High School in the championship game. Mick Melvin, Mark Redfern and Rob Grim scored in double figures in the first two contests. And Redfern and Grim were named to the all-tournament team.

- The **DHS wrestlers** captured the Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn and the Chester County Invitational tournament crowns. Glenn Koser (138 pounds) won his third PMB title, and Duncan McIntyre (112) and Chris Goerlitz (heavyweight) also were successful in their final matches. Seven Whippet wrestlers won championships in the CCI tourney.

- The **DHS boys' swimming team** won its first match in history by beating Lower Merion 99-73. Rick Devine spearheaded the Whippets' effort with two firsts. However, the girls' team lost to the Aces by a 95-77 margin.

- Elected as officers of local fire companies were:

West Bradford Fire Co.—Ken Buckwalter, president; Joe Skinner, vice president; Bob Adams, treasurer; and Jack Hines, secretary.

Lionville Fire Co.—Ed Milham, president; Doug Ruth, vice president; David Ruth, membership secretary; Al Rabeneau, recording secretary; Harold Trego, financial secretary; Ray Rennard, trustee; and Richard Ruth, chief.

Alert Fire Co.—Bill Keen, president; Robert Stevens, vice president; Dick Myers, treasurer; Bill Wilmot, recording secretary; Bill Barrett, financial secretary; Jerry Keen, Bruce Nixdorf and Dave Caputo, trustees.

Minquas Fire Co.—John Beam, president; Angie Caputo, vice president; Georgene Doughts, recording secretary; Jim McGowan, treasurer; Dave DiLuigi, financial secretary; and Vince Panetti and James Johnson, trustees.

- First place winners in the **Downingtown Area Girl Scout Service Unit's** Christmas cookie container decorating competition included Christina Nathan, Felicia Cozzone, Supana Chaudhary, Cheryl Mendenhall, Vicki Patton, Maria Troemel, Allison Mathern, Kristyna Kiwak, Laurie Phillips, Nicole Curtin, Sandie Donovan, Michelle Hartzell and Kristen Whiteman.

These steps lead from East Lancaster Ave. into Kerr Park



Heidi Smith is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many people who recognized the stairway in the photo above as an entrance from East Lancaster Avenue into the borough's Kerr Park. The three-year-old boy at the top of the steps is Larry Meredith, who provided the picture. The entrance and stairway, designed by Downingtown architect Gilbert McIlvaine, was a federally-funded WPA project, which was built in the 1930s, during the Great Depression.

Part II of “Slices of Downingtown History” series to be presented at library

The second part of “Slices of Downingtown,” a series on local history, will be presented by the Downingtown Area Historical Society, in conjunction with the Downingtown Library, at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 26 at the library.

The first “Slices” program, presented in October, focused on the early settlement of Downingtown in the 1700s, with an emphasis on the village’s early mills.

This new “Slices” program will move into the 1800s and will focus on the inns and early transportation and their impact on the village, including the turnpikes and the building of the first railroad.

To register for a seat for the January 26 session, please call the library at 610-269-2741 or register online via the library’s website at:

<http://ereserve.ccls.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp?ag=&et=Adults%2C+Library+closings&n=0&private=0&ln=7>.

Group Photo of the Week



These are the first graders at East Ward School during the 1955-56 school year. Members of the class were, left to right: front row, Gail Dunfee, David Shirk, Mike Miller, unknown, Mike Smith, Billy Brown; second row, Betty Lou Daller, Linda Wilson, Carole Miller, Glenn Johnson, Mary Biddle, unknown; third row, John Bostelle, Lynn Tucker, Charles Johnson, Mary Spickler, Deanne Harper, Dick Geiger; fourth row, Mary Anne Brookover, Jimmy Prouse, Carol Ruetter, Sheila Massimini, Mrs. Grace Pickell, teacher. Photo and names were provided by Mary Anne Brookover Geary.

Vintage Ad of the Week

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Front-loading FRIGIDAIRE Dishmobile



Model DW-2884
4 colors or White

- Maple Chopping Block Top
- Your dishes come out much cleaner, more sanitary than dishwashing by hand.
- Big capacity usually means once-a-day dishwashing.
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SALE \$199

Can Opener ...	\$8.81
Hair Dryer	\$9.81
Portable Mixer	\$8.15
Radio—	
6-Transistor ...	\$6.21

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Greatest Values Ever
Our Famous —
Much Wanted
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Thriftiest FRIGIDAIRE 2-Door Refrigerator!



Model RFD-637-2
\$239.00, 96.

- Porcelain Enamel exterior finish.
- 100-lb. zero zone top freezer.
- Automatic defrosting refrigerator section.
- Twin vegetable Hydrators hold nearly ¾ bushel.

SALE \$249

Lowest Priced Flair by FRIGIDAIRE!



RDF-630, 30", electric
Artec Copper or White

- Dramatically beautiful—looks built-in but slides into place as easily as conventional range.
- Glass oven door glides up to open out of your way.
- Roll-Te-You cooking surface glides out.

SALE \$299

base incl.

Steam and Dry Iron	\$7.21
Steam Spray & Dry Iron ...	\$9.88
Toaster—	
4-Slice	\$11.88

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This ad was originally published in the November 18, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

News of local crime case was reported across U.S. in 1857

News accounts about a mid-19th Century crime, which occurred in the Chester Springs and Lionville areas, gained widespread attention. Even the August 7, 1857 edition of the New York Herald, as well as many other newspapers across the U.S., carried articles about the “bloody tragedy.” The story was originally published in West Chester’s *Village Record*.

The “bloody encounter” began when West Chester constable William Lynch and C.M. Layman, another Chester County law enforcement officer, attempted to serve an arrest warrant on William Baugh, who lived on a property “on the road leading from Lionville to Yellow Springs.” The warrant charged Baugh with “inflicting wounds upon a colored man with a pitchfork.”

About 50 years old, Baugh was a cooper by trade. “And “when excited, his passions were violent and uncontrollable,” the article in the New York newspaper claimed.

Baugh was chopping wood with an ax, when Lynch and Layman arrived at his property in a horse-drawn wagon. When the officers informed Baugh of the reason for their visit, he struck Layman with the ax, inflicting a wound “of the most ghastly and deadly character” on Layman’s neck, which almost severed his jugular vein” And when Baugh began to swing the ax again, Layman jumped back, drew his revolver and fired a shot that grazed the assailant’s right arm and chin.

Baugh then grabbed Layman and the two men struggled for several minutes. Despite his severe wound, Layman was able to hold Baugh down while Lynch handcuffed him, and the two officers dragged him onto the wagon. Layman rapidly drove the wagon toward Lionville, as Lynch guarded the prisoner. However, Layman had to pull over to the side of the road before they reached Lionville, because he was so weak, due to the loss of so much blood.

That’s when Baugh attacked the two officers again and attempted to retrieve his gun from Lynch. A shot, fired during the brawl, resulted in Baugh suffering a severe wound in his temple.

Subsequently, the officers continued their dash toward Lionville, and the mortally wounded Baugh was taken to a hotel in the village. He died within an hour.

Although we haven’t found any press coverage regarding a follow-up investigation of the case, the August 8, 1857 edition of the *Easton (MD) Gazette* reported: “The general sentiments of the community, lawyers and laymen, appeared to be that the killing was clearly a case of justifiable homicide.”

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_De edAbstract.pdf.

Free Ads for Non-Profit

Student Art at Library

DHS East art students are displaying their work at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Avenue.

Madame Curie

Ann Atkins, author, historian, educator, will present Part 2 of her program on Madame Curie when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 17 at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome and the meetings free to all.

A Midwinter's Night: A dram good time!

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its eighth annual Whisky Tasting and dinner at the Marshalton Inn on February 4th. Taste six single malt whisky's, receive your own tasting glass, plus a filet mignon dinner, tasting plate to match the whisky flavors, chocolate desert, silent auction, enter to bagpipe music. \$100 per person. Call 610.696.7442 or email thorndalerotary@gmail.com. Sponsorships available. Showcase your business by calling the above number.

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/downingtown/>, 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.

