



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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@downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

What was happening here in January 1981

Noted below are news items published in the *East Branch Citizen* 36 years ago:

- The possibility of Downingtown dissolving its **borough health department** and the county health department taking over its functions in order to save \$18,000 a year, drew protests from Dr. Norman MacKenzie, who had headed the Downingtown Health Board for many years. MacKenzie claimed the borough department “does not cost the borough one red cent,” because inspection fees covered the cost of the department’s operations.
- In an effort to combat a **water shortage in East Caln**, the township ordered 2,000 flow restrictors that fit into residents’ shower heads and faucets. The devices would reduce water flow by 60 percent, said township manager Ed Hill. Also, appointed to the township’s boards and commissions were: Karl Heideck, planning commission; John Dougherty, zoning hearing board; and Paul Brown, municipal authority.
- While executives of Reynolds Corp. worked on the plans for the purchase of the **Milprint plant** in the borough, employees of the Downingtown printing firm were sweating out the possibility of a layoff.
- Nominees for the council of **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were: Eugene Gerard, David Heydt, William Isinger, Holly Lopacki, Edgar Miller, Ethel Otter and Walter Riedi.
- Reappointed to boards and commissions in **Uwchlan Township** were: Arthur Rothe, municipal authority; Lacy Lackey, zoning hearing board; Robert Devaney, vacancy board; Edward Pyle, Frances Matthews, Shirley Dunwoody, Idamae Lackey and Ellen Bernard, historical commission; and Robert Costello, park and recreation commission. Also, the township sold an 8.7-acre tract at Whitford Road and Devon Drive to the Exton-Lionville YMCA for \$87,000. The township had purchased the land as a possible site for a municipal building. And for the first time in four years, the township did not issue one building permit in a 30-day period.
- **Upper Uwchlan** supervisors made the following reappointments: Anthony DiFernando, planning commissions; Tom Roach, zoning hearing board; Robert Trego, park commission; and Melvin Cohen, sewer commission.
- Dr. George Irwin was re-elected chairman of **West Pikeland’s** supervisors, and Albert Brady was elected vice chairman. Meta Miller was reappointed secretary-treasurer, and Harry Miller continued as the township’s roadmaster, William Cracas continued as subdivision officer, and Benjamin Saggese as zoning officer.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 251 Ridgewood Drive, West Bradford, \$48,000; 208 Meadow Drive, Caln, \$57,200; and 400 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$94,380.
- Members of the recently formed **Cub Pack 115**, which met at the New East Ward School in Downingtown, included: John Borst, Eric Clarke, Kyung Nam Kim, Mark Malone, Todd and Steve Shirk, Dan Abbott and Tom Linkins.
- DHS students who were selected for the **Southeastern Regional Chorus** included: Suzanne Grant, Kathy Parvensky, Jennifer Abrams, Karen Lammey, Brian Stahl, Tom Wallace, Tom Newlin and Brian Robison.
- **Hopewell United Methodist Church’s** board of trustees included: Robert Carmichael, Harry Christensen, Arnold Kring, Harry Bryant, George Dowlin, Arnold Sten, Parke Rissell, Peter Smith and Harold Thompson.

- The **DHS wrestling team** won its second holiday tournament when it topped a 10-team field to take the Chester County Invitational at West Chester University. Glenn Koser was named the tourney's Outstanding Wrestler, after he pinned all three of his opponents. Sophomore sensation John Lucerne also captured a division title by registering a pin and two decisions.
- Bishop Shanahan upset the **DHS boys' basketball squad** 40-39 in a triple overtime game of the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tournament at West Chester University. Mark Redfern, who made the all-tournament team, led the Whippet scorers with 18 points.
- Making only four of 12 foul shots was one reason why the **DHS girls' basketball team** lost to Bishop Shanahan 45-42 in the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tournament. Dori Barton and Connie Kramer each tallied 10 points for the Whippets.
- Sean Marks, Jim Poluch, Tim Frank, Larry Smith and Bill Castle each scored pins, as the **Downingtown Junior High wrestling team** beat Pottsgrove 18-39. Lancers who won by decision were Steve Ross, Chris Saello, Rollie Boyle, Chris Carcella and Pete Frank.

Group Photo of the Week



This photo shows a sixth grade class at East Ward School in Downingtown during the 1953-54 school year. The photo and names, which include women's married names where possible, were provided by Connie Gara Hartman. Starting on the right side of the photo, the students in the class were, front to back: first row, Dorothy Chambers Murphy, Connie Gara Hartman, John Unger, Carol Mae Groff, Susan Wright; second row, Josephine Talucci D'Ginto, John Yamshak, Robert Fidler, Ron Meacham, Karen Sigel Mello, Larry Dague; third row, Ed Klunk, Betty May, Lois Emery, Mary A Phillips Curtiss, Dallett Norris, Charles "Bud" Bruton; fourth row, Patty Null, Barbara Wright, Eugene Reinhardt, Christy Castaldi, Timothy Britton, Elwin Algiers; Jack Law, Peggy Zittle, Jack Hoffman, Carol Butterman and Richard Johnson. Miss Yost was their teacher.

What locals were talking about in January 1956

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

- The home of Theresa Sciarretta, 219 Church St., Downingtown, won the Christmas decorating competition, sponsored by the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**.
- Nominees for the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** board of directors were: Raymond Hallman, W.P. Canby, Roland Moore, John Brownstein, Newlin Moore, Thomas Roberts, Vinton Smedley, Frank Bishop, Creston Shoemaker, Clifford Orr, Gibson McIlvain, Dr. H. H. Sharpe and Benjamin Valocchi.
- Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Larry Polite co-chaired the **Downingtown Woman's Club's** New Year's breakfast.
- The **Exton Roller Rink**, owned by the West Whiteland Fire Co, was slated to open.
- DHS students, selected to participate in the **District Band**, were John Dawson, Joan Piersol and Irwin Rubincam.
- Led by John Chilla and Jack Skiles, the **DHS boys' basketball team** won its first Ches-Mont game by beating Bridgeport 58-40.
- The **Downingtown A & P** was selling coffee for 83 cents a pound.
- **Uwchlan Township** supervisors elected Clair Becker as chairman, Russell Miller as vice-chairman, and Schuyler Rennard as secretary-treasurer.
- Bill Osborne and Jack Francella led St. Anthony's Lodge in a 63-53 win over the Downingtown VFW in the opening game of the **Community Basketball League**, sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association.

Phil Dague elected Historical Society's President

Phil Dague, also known as "Mr. Downingtown," was elected president of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. He succeeds Parry Desmond, who had been president of the Historical Society for seven years. Desmond will continue to put out the Hist-O-Gram, the Historical Society's free, online newsletter, which is sent every week to more than 900 households.

Jim Sundman, author of the recently published "Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations: Philadelphia to Harrisburg," was elected vice president, and is a new board member. He succeeded Ernie Jameson, who retired from the society's board after serving as an officer for several decades.

Lauren Fagan, who had served on the society's board years ago, has returned as treasurer. She succeeded Francine Dague, who retired from the board.

Marion Piccolomini, author of the recently published "World War II and Chester County, Pennsylvania," was re-elected as recording secretary.

And Jay Worrall is a new director on the board.

The board also includes: Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary; and directors Harry Helms, Dennis Walton and Mike Dunn.

Vintage Ad of the Week

THE CANDY BOX
for a
Delicious Easter Confection
try a
MARY LEE EGG
70c a Pound
Orders taken now for named eggs
Mrs. HELEN PAWLING
80 W. Lincoln Highway
Downingtown

This ad was originally published in the April 5, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

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.

It's at 500 Park Road, Upper Uwchlan



Not one soul identified the house in the photo above. Known as the Charles C. and Elizabeth B. Moore House at 500 Park Road in Upper Uwchlan, it was built in 1874. The photo was taken by Mike Dunn.

Free Ads for Non-Profit

Volunteer Military and Patriotism

Robert Boyce, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.), nuclear submarine commander, historian and educator, will talk on Volunteer Military Service and Patriotism when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 21 at the West Caln municipal building, 721 West Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

History of Blacks and Lukens Steel Co.

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Ave., Coatesville, will present a program about "Coatesville Steel: The Black Experience" at 6 PM on Thursday, February 2. Cost: \$5 per person.

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.