



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 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.

What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of June 1981:

- The Downingtown Area School Board revised its punishment code for students who violated the district's **drug and alcohol policies**. Penalties for students caught using or possessing drugs or alcohol on school property, on school buses, or at school activities were increased from a 20-day suspension to 30 days. Second offenders or those who caught selling or distributing drugs or alcohol were to be expelled.
- The School Board also agreed to establish **boys' and girls' swim teams as a varsity sport** at DHS. The teams would practice in the pool being built at the Brandywine YMCA, and that would be the site for home meets, as well. And the school directors recommended that the annual salary of Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent, be increased from \$53,000 to \$59,000.
- The possibility of razing the **Pennsylvania House** on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown was being discussed by Herbert Balian, owner of the three-story structure since 1971, and borough officials. The vacant building was the target of vandalism and unfit for habitation since it was severely damaged by a February 1981 fire. The original part of the building served as a tavern until 1848, when it became the Pennsylvania House Hotel when Henry Eicholtz was the proprietor. And President Lincoln's funeral train stopped at the hotel to refuel at the railroad station next door. In recent times, the site had stores on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors.
- Plans to build a total of 962 townhouses in the Kings Crossing and Eaglesmere developments in **Upper Uwchlan** attracted some 60 township residents to a supervisors' meeting. The supervisors said they were opposed to the plans as well, but they were waiting for advice from "outside counsel."
- Members of the **LYA major league all-star team** were Mike Costello, Tim Lawler, Sean Traynor, Duane Oakes, Rob Brandl, Mike Lizdas, Mike Jorgenson, John McCormack, John Murray, Tom Katancik, Dave Preikszas, Brian Hughes, Bob McAuliffe and John Donohue.
- Elected as leaders of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Frank Brouse, president; Bruce Bredickas, first vice president; Leon Bixler, second vice president; Albert Holman, secretary; David Kirkner, treasurer; and directors Bob Cropper, Larry Reed and William Mason.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 202 Kelley Lane, Uwchlan, \$104,900; 1316 Blair Circle, West Bradford, \$72,125; 420 Church St., Downingtown, \$56,000; 543 Fairview Road, Wallace, \$56,500; 123 Clearview Drive, East Brandywine, \$66,900; 223 Westbury Court, Caln, \$49,000.
- Rod Bell and Cathy Palski set new team records as **Pennypacker Country Club swim team** beat Wagontown 318-146 in Brandywine Swim League action.
- Winners in the **4-mile road race**, sponsored by the Uwchlan Township Recreation Commission, were Mike Bizal in the senior bracket and Faith Faller in the junior division.
- Those who took first place in the **Home Run Derby** at Kerr Park were Jim Mastroianni, 8 and 9-year-olds; Scott Torrance, 10, 11 and 12-year-olds; John Hayes, 13, 13 and 15-year-olds.
- **Boy Scouts from the Marshallton area**, who attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill, VA, included Brian Flaherty, Ronnie Chiesa, Stephen Bowser, Greg Sleeman and John Pfeiffer, plus scoutmaster Ken Trimble.
- Winners in the bubble gum blowing competition at the **Lionville Playground** were: Tina Astwood, Edgar Tinson, Malinda Jones, Paul Nicholson, Nolan Purnel and Demaris Roy. And

softball throwing contest winners at the **Wagenseller Park Playground** in Wallace were Amy and Steve Mitchell, Jenny Kohler, Melanie Seiforth, Francine Armstrong, Heather Dillinger, Mary Jane Poluch, Renee and Rick Kacmar, Jeff and Kenny Seese, and Fred Wendig,

Vintage Ad of the Week



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is proud to present the all new
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DIRECTIONS: from Downingtown Rt. 322-go less than 2 miles (before Baptist Church) turn left on Osborne Road ¼ mile to Sample on Osborne and Fisherville Roads.

Springton Manor, Inc., Builder

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This ad was originally published in the May 26, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

What locals were talking about in July 1956

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

- The Downingtown School Board decided to “get in line” for state aid to help finance a **new high school**. The junior-senior high school, built in 1932 on Manor Avenue, was at capacity, with an enrollment of 920 students. And there were 1,150 pupils now in the local elementary schools who were projected to be enrolled at DHS in 1961. And that projection didn’t include inevitable growth created by new residents moving into the Downingtown area.
- The end of manual telephone service came to an end in Downingtown, and a **direct dial system** was introduced. No longer did a Bell Telephone operator ask, “Number please,” when a call was put through.
- Downingtown area **beauticians** increased their prices to \$1.75 for a shampoo and a finger wave, and to \$1.25 for a haircut.
- Robert Plank was elected president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Also elected were Robert Piersol, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; and Edward McCausland, treasurer.
- A **community band** was being formed by the Downingtown School District and the borough’s Kerr Park Commission. William Ifert and Joe Poltrone were the co-directors.
- Downingtown’s **summer recreation program** was underway, with Mary Jane Bird running the East Ward School playground and Thelma Heller in charge of the playground at West Ward School.
- **Glenmoore Brownies** who attended day camp were Susy Houck, Norma Howe, Bonnie Moore, Cathy Bingaman, Nancy and Mary Ann Harple, Jean Reisling, Sandra Strickland and Jill Loomis.
- Employment at **Beloit-Eastern** had increased from 265 workers to more than 500 employees in the past six months. The firm purchased a 4.5-acre tract on Lincoln Avenue in Downingtown, from Ellis King, so there would be more parking space for employees.
- The **Exton Drive-in** movie theatre opened on Route 100.
- The 18-hole golf course at **Whitford Country Club** was being built, at a projected cost of \$400,000.

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. Also on the 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.

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.

Group Photo of the Week



Representatives of the municipalities served by the Downingtown Area Regional Sewer Authority in 2000, pictured above, were, left to right: Ben Valocchi, East Caln; Danny Castaldi, Downingtown; Don Greenleaf, Uwchlan; Charles O'Donnell, Caln; and Keith Choper, West Whiteland.

Coral Hall had been at 114 E. Lancaster Avenue



Bud Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the site in the photo above as 114 East Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown. All we know about Coral Hall is that it was used as a public meeting place in the late 19th Century. Many local residents remember the building as the location of Hutchison's Rexall Drug Store for much of the 20th Century. Currently, it's the home of Downingtown Youth Meditation, Candy Vigorita's All State Insurance Agency and Commonwealth Engineers Inc .

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Shakespeare in the Park

Hosted by the Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission, the Center for Performing and Fine Arts will present its touring production of Shakespeare's timeless comedy, "Twelfth Night" from 6-9 PM Saturday, July 29 at Kerr Park. This is a free, family-friendly event. Please bring a blanket and lounge chairs and join in on the classic summer fun.

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.strikeoutsforkatie.com.

Bats for Matt

The ninth annual Bats For Matt Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 15 & Sunday, 16. Donations for this year's tournament are being accepted. If you or your business would like to donate an item for a raffle table please send an email to: BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com.

Stop by our tournament and be an umpire for one game and earn a free meal. No experience necessary! If interested, stop by the tournament and reach out to one of the Ciarlone boys working the registration table.

To register your team, please send an email to BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com, Bigciarlone@gmail.com, or Krazzielazzie224@yahoo.com. In your email, please include your team name, team captain and a cell phone number for your team captain. All the information about your team and the rules for the tournament can be found on the rules and regulations section of: www.batsformatt.com.

Movie Nite in Park

Downingtown's Parks & Recreation Commission will host a Movie Night near the Kerr Park gazebo on Saturday, July 15. The event starts at 8 PM, with an 8:15 PM show time. The free, family-friendly movie is "Inside Out!" The P&R Commission will provide popcorn (while supplies last). Please bring refreshments, chairs and blankets for your family. If there is inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

Chronic Waste Disease

Wayne Laroche, director, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Penna. Game Commission, will discuss Chronic Waste Disease, which **attacks the brain of infected deer, elk and moose, when the** West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 18 in the West Caln Township administration building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meeting are free and open to the public.

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 or office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Links for the Library Golf Outing

Downingtown Library will hold its third annual Links for the Library 18-hole golf outing on Monday, July 31 at Whitford Country Club. The event includes lunch and a dinner reception. All proceeds will go to the Downingtown Library. For more info, contact Mary Larsen at: mlars315@gmail.com.

Summer Jam Series

The Downingtown Main Street Association's third annual Summer Jam series will continue at Kerr Park in Downingtown on Friday night, July 28. In addition to the music, the jams will include craft and food vendors. For more info, see: www.downingtownmainstreet.com

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Mill at Anselma

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.

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.downingtownsensiors.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. Sickle 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/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.