



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.

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 was happening here 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in early March 1965:

- Walter Leland, Downingtown's borough manager, sent the Downingtown Area Joint School Board a copy of a letter from the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, which claimed that the planned merger of several township school districts into the Downingtown school system was an **"attack on our boroughs and a threat to home rule."** Superintendent of Schools Raymond Baugher was directed to advise Leland that the majority of the school board and most of area's residents favored the merger.

- Representatives of Downingtown's **First Baptist Church** sought a special permit from the borough's Zoning Board to eventually build a church and a parsonage on a 9.9-acre tract at Pennsylvania and Lloyd Avenues. Irving Geschwindt, Zoning Board chairman, said he expected a favorable decision since no one opposed the plan. Vernon Jameson, of the church board, testified that the land, to be acquired from William Lloyd for \$4,000 an acre, was the "last source after two years of searching for a new site." The congregation was organized in 1883 and its first church was built in 1890 at Pennsylvania and Manor Avenues in the borough. Except for the sanctuary, the original church was replaced in 1938, and an addition was constructed in 1960.

- Officers of the **East Brandywine-Wallace School Authority** were Emanuel Gindin, president; James Nelson, secretary; Philip Kirtland, treasurer; and Edward Crane, assistant treasurer.

- A record player and a projection screen for classroom use, framed reproductions of paintings to be in the school hallways, \$400 worth of books for the school library, and \$5 for each teacher to reimburse them for purchases they had made for pupils were contributions made by the **Pickering Valley Home and School Association**. A square dance and sale of Easter candy were two of the association's planned fund raising efforts.

- Bonnie MacDougal, Linda Garvine, Karen Gottier, Cindy Styer, Kathy Stanford and Judy Dewees of **Girl Scout Troop 1070 in Eagle** collected pennies for the Julliette Low Fund. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Alan Dewees, Mrs. Robert Simpson and Mrs. Robert MacDougal.

- Karen Cummins, Joyce Mull, Beth Willoughby and Mark Schreier were winners of the stewardship poster contest, honored at a dinner at **St. Paul United Church of Christ**, Lionville.

- Some 100 **Cub Scouts**, parents and guests attended a Blue and Gold banquet in the cafetorium of Beaver Creek School, Downingtown. Cubs honored at the banquet included: Blake and Bill Dorman, Burt Hough, Albert DeMatteo, Joe Ippolito, Philip Ham, Steve Singer, Roger Patrizio, Steve Hemberger, Jerry Keen, Steve Best and John Haas.

- The **Downingtown Republican Committee** decided to endorse incumbent borough councilmen Armand Taraschi, Fred Pollock and Mayor Creston Shoemaker in the May primary election. And Warren Strawsnyder, president of the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce was nominated to take the seat of Councilman W. P. Canby, who decided not to run for re-election. W. I. Pollock was endorsed to continue as one of the borough's school directors. And since George Aumiller decided not to run again for tax collector, Thomas Courtless was chosen to seek that position.

The **Downingtown Democratic Committee** slate of nominees included: Anthony Colella, mayor; Benjamin Spence and Thomas Benton, borough council; Margarett Helm, tax collector; and Leo Ciarlone, justice of the peace.

- Kenneth Dunn, Kathy Ames, Elsie Cohen, Jeanne Dorsey, Ruth Travaglini and Janet Strawsnyder, members of the **Future Teachers of America** at DHS, attended a conference at Temple University. And DHS students who won prizes in a **kitchen planning competition**, sponsored by the Philadelphia Electric Co., were Dorothy Hendrix, who won an electric hair dryer; Susan Blake, who received an electric blanket. And three DHS sophomores—Janie Forbes, Joy Henssler and Edie Thompson—won the **hand-made dress competition**, sponsored by the Chester County Federation of Woman's Clubs.

It was the Prospect School in Upper Uwchlan



David Downing is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the former Prospect School in Upper Uwchlan Township. David attended fifth and sixth grades there in the early 1950s. “I remember carrying buckets of coal for the pot belly heater to heat the school and how cold it was in the winter mornings. I think the one-room school houses provided a good education because you got to learn what the 6th graders were being taught, as well as what you were getting in the 5th grade,” says David, who graduated from DHS in 1964. After a career in the Air Force, David and his wife (the former Vickie Thompson, DHS Class of 1965) settled in Choctaw, OK. “We've been here in the Oklahoma City metro area since 1971, except for a year when I was in Turkey. We have both been fully retired for several years. We still get back to the Downingtown area once a year.” Built in 1862, the school was closed in 1964, when all the elementary school students in Upper Uwchlan and West Pikeland Townships started attending the new Pickering Valley School,

according to *The Upper Uwchlan, A Place Betwixt and Between*, written by Estelle Cremers and Pamela Shenk.

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

Fresh Fish
DAILY
Can Now Be Secured at
E. B. McINTIRE'S MARKET
139 W. LANCASTER AVE.
This Week We Have
STEAK FISH SMELTS BASS
HADDOCK and FILLETS

This ad was originally published in the March 6, 1931 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

What locals were talking about 85 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in November and December 1932:

- Herbert Hoover garnered nearly 70 percent of the votes cast by borough residents in the **presidential election**. The southwest precinct, popularly known as Johnstown, was the only section of town where Franklin D. Roosevelt got more votes—and just a plurality of three votes—than his Republican opponent.

And in a model election at DHS, the students cast 152 votes for Hoover; an unnamed Socialist candidate got 115, and Roosevelt came in third, with 81 votes.

Since Roosevelt won the national election, however, there was a “noisy and enthusiastic” parade in the borough, conducted by Democrat supporters on Election Night. The victory parade included the DHS band (“resplendent in their new uniforms”) and over 50 cars and trucks. A contingent from East Brandywine brought a manure spreader and a hearse transporting a stuffed GOP elephant. The Alert’s ladder truck was expected to be in the parade, but several of the fire company’s Republican members nixed that idea at the last moment.

- Following a merger of the two local financial institutions, money and securities from the **Grange National Bank** on East Lancaster Avenue were transported less than a block, to the Downingtown National Bank in the borough’s Center Square. The Saturday afternoon transfer was accomplished by Chester Glisson chief of police, and Joe Newlin, patrolman.

- The DHS Athletic Committee decided, once again, to **discontinue the girls’ basketball team**. However, the committee rescinded that decision, following pressure from the community and a petition signed by 85 “furious” girls. Subsequently, the school board learned that the current coach had a medical problem, and “it was too much trouble for other members of the DHS faculty to take on this added duty without extra pay.” The school directors tossed the issue into the principal’s lap.

- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** decided to begin conducting its weekly meetings at the **Downingtown Woman’s Club**. When the Rotary Club was first formed six years earlier, its dinner meetings were held at the Woman’s Club on Manor Avenue for several years. But in recent years, the Rotarians had been meeting at the Bell Tavern, owned by Lewis Downing, and operated by Raymond Daller who decided to start operating a chicken farm.

- Although the federal Prohibition laws were soon to be repealed, a junior branch of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union was established at the **Downingtown Methodist Church**. Officers of the new organization were Jack Lamping, president; Park Moore, vice president; Alice Dennis, corresponding secretary; Amy Murray, recording secretary; and Weldon Bicking, treasurer.

- The **Victor Spinning Company’s** plant in Downingtown, which had not been in operation for several months, closed.

- The **Downingtown Industrial School’s football team** beat the much bigger Dover (DE) State College squad in the seventh meeting of the two schools.

- Dr. George Bousum was general chairman of the third annual **Charity Ball**, held at the Minquas Fire Co. on December 29. Other committee members were Emerson Weimer, Robert Ash, Mrs. George Bousum and Mrs. Lee Hamilton. Proceeds from event were donated to the Lions Club's Welfare Committee.

Group Photo of the Week



This is the Senior High Choir at DHS in 1950. Members included: sopranos, Caterina Moschitta, Marie Cozzone, Ruth Schrupf, Mary Ann Reardon, Dottie Jane McCausland, Mary Bertha Wagner, Margaret Mitchell, Eileen Wharry, Janet Walton, Mary Graden, Aletha Hershey, Diane Kline, Philomena Cozzone, Nancy Ciarlone, Rena Eachus, Virginia Thrasher, Mary Ann Miller, Adella Ippolito, Barbara Griffith; basses, George Brookover, Thomas Bransford, Charles Davis, Stanley Russell, Kenneth McCardell, Robert MacDougal, Frank Swarner, Frank Natalie, Joseph Hemphill, William Toboldt, Anthony DiMarco; altos, Rose Mattioni, Netha Beumer, Joanne Barclay, Janet Weimer, Honora MacPherson, Joan Moore, Margaret Sciarretta, Janet Sciarretta, Shirley Habecker, Nancy Wagoner, Margaret Ciarlone; tenors, Robert Lillard, Carmen Menna, Edwin Carpenter, Charles Bransford, Frank DiSilvestro. Katherine Mosteller was the accompanist and Dorothy Francis was the director.

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 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.

In case you missed last week's **Hist-O-Gram**

You can access the July 20 issue of our Hist-O-Gram via:

www.downingtowndareahistoricalandsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/July%202020%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Free Ads for Non-Profits

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.

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.

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.downingtowndmainstreet.com

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.

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.

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.

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. 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/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.