



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B_uVb6lhZku7mw).

# What was happening here 36 years ago

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

- Despite rainy weather some 800 people turned out for the Run For Life road race, which was the highlight of Downingtown's fourth annual **Good Neighbor Day** celebration on the Fourth of July. Lex Ziobro and Dave Lapp again won the 9-mile competition, for women and men respectively. The team of Nick Giunta and Dale Krapf won the canoe race down the Brandywine.
- Participants in the official **reopening of the Downing Center** shopping mall on East Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough included Vince DiEuliis, borough council president; John Fiore, mayor; Jim McGowan, council member; Sam Morris, state representative; Don Greenleaf, borough manager; and Gordon Saul, mall manager,
- New officers of the **DHS Alumni Association** were Carl Valente, president; Donald Ash, first vice president; Steven Rosenweig, second vice president; Hazel Miller, recording secretary; Linda Brown, treasurer; Carol Brown, assistant treasurer; Kathy McNevech, corresponding secretary; and Debbie Garvey, homecoming treasurer.
- DHS students who participated in seventh annual **American Music Abroad concert tour** in Europe were Christine Remley, Ed Otto and Brian Shaughnessy.
- **Ray Sheeler**, who had been a Chevrolet dealer in Downingtown since 1928, was responsible for the Chevrolet Antique Association having its meeting at the Downingtown Inn, on Route 30, East Caln. The meeting, held every five years, included hundreds of antique and vintage Chevys on display in the Inn's parking lots.
- Downingtown Rotary won the second half championship of the **Downingtown Girls' Softball League** by beating Whitford Flowers 13-3. Rotary's offense was led by Dawn Rodgers, Stacy Poole and Regina Caffro.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 1647 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$62,790; 625 Pancoast Lane, East Brandywine, \$100,755; 116 Morris Road, Uwchlan, \$72,500; 445 Spruce Drive, Exton, \$93,540; 4 Downing Road, East Caln, \$110,000; 445 W. Prospect Avenue, Downingtown, \$48,000; 3316 Hazelwood Avenue, Thorndale, \$71,000.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Bob Barber, president; Hank Pollock, first vice president; Fred Porrecca, second vice president; Ken Van Gilder, third vice president; Max Gallman, secretary; John Rent, treasurer; Mike Bem, lion tamer; Elmer Hemberger, tail twister; and directors Vinton Smedley, Maurie Davis, Ray Waechter and Lew Pyle.
- Elected as leaders at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, Exton, were: Connie Happersett, Martin Reber, John Bauer, Dennis Young, Robert Wright and Ron Mitchell, finance committee; George Comstock, property committee; and Sheila Rees, education committee.
- Sally Boughman, Kathy Rick, Nancy Fitzgibbons and Kim Hunter each got three hits, as Locust Knoll beat Cross keys in **East Brandywine Women's Softball League** competition.

*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

# **Girvin's Restaurant**

**Clean and Wholesome**

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**MEALS SERVED AT ALL HOURS**

**Home-Made Pies and Pastry**

**MARROW'S ICE CREAM**

*Marrow's Banquet Ice Cream 45c Quart*

**Salt Water OYSTERS AND CLAMS Freshly Opened**

**Call 456 and have your Order Delivered to your door**

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## **GIRVIN'S**

**Formerly Chas. Baen's**

**In The Mittel Block**

**Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was originally published in the March 11, 1932 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

# What was happening here 85 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in July and August 1932:

- Some Downingtown area 300 boys were jammed into 43 cars that transported them to **Philadelphia's Shibe Park** to see the Athletics play a doubleheader against the Cleveland Indians. The entourage was escorted part way by a Minquas Fire Co. squad wagon and a borough police car. At City Line Avenue, the cavalcade was met by a welcoming squad of Philadelphia cops on motorcycles. The annual trip was sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club. The local Lions Club also arranged for the DHS band to travel to Reading, where the local musicians played on a radio program broadcasted by a Berks County station.

- The Downingtown Businessmen's Club donated \$200 to the borough Park Commission, and requested that **Kerr Park** be open after 1 PM on Sundays for games and sports. And although a plan to build a concrete pool in the park was abandoned because of a lack of widespread public support due to the Great Depression, the Park Commission had a low dam constructed just below the junction of Beaver and Brandywine Creeks, so kids could have a swimming hole. Recreation director Bill McAlpine noted that daily attendance at activities in Kerr Park was averaging about 200.

- The number of students slated to attend Downingtown Junior-Senior High School in September totaled a **record-breaking 325 pupils**. And the **monthly tuition fees** paid to the Downingtown School District by township school districts for students, who attended a school in the borough, were: \$6 for those in grades 1-4; \$8 for those in grades 5-8; and \$12 for those in the junior-senior high.

- Charter members of the newly formed **Downingtown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post** included Howard Harvey, Chester Charles, Joseph Eby, William Brady, John Francella, Robert Dougherty, Charles Kennedy, Joseph Romano, Merritt Ibaugh, Ellis Myers, John Boyd, Melvin Arment, E. D. Sargent, Robert Garrett, Harry Beardsall, Peter Weiss, Clarence Fisher, Austin Windle, George Hurst, Fred Howe and James Walker.

- Winners of grand prizes at the **welfare carnival**, sponsored by the American Legion and Downingtown Lions Club, were: Mary Rodgers, first, \$20 in gold; Mary Davis, second, \$10 in gold; and Joe Colella, third, \$5 in gold. And winners of a gate prize—three-piece sets of wicker furniture—were Mrs. William Wharry, Frank Euler, John Petrella, Earl Walton and Anthony DiLuigi.

- Officers elected to lead **Downingtown's Patriotic Order of Sons of America Camp** were Harry Brown, president; John Nichols, vice president; Wilmer Pease, master of forms; Morris Ott, conductor; John LeFever, inspector; John Pannebaker, guard; and George Perry, trustee.

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Gertrude Deets, president; Sara MacIntire, past president; Mary Hilton, junior regent; Agnes Trace, chaplain; Effie Spencer, treasurer; Mary Algier, recorder; Carrie Francella, guide; Mary Cahill, sentinel; and Mary Ralston, adjutant.

## Group Photo of the Week



DHS cheerleaders are pictured as they check their makeup during a 1957 football game. They included, in no particular order, Polly Pennypacker, Mary Ann Phillips, Karen Sigle, Gerry McCombs, Mary Jane Sabellico, Susie McCue, Shirley Jessee and Barbara Osborne.

## In case you missed any of the June Hist-O-Grams

Here are the Hist-O-Grams we released in June, in case you missed any of them:

**June 1:** [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%201%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%201%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

**June 8:** [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%208%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%208%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

**June 15:** [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2015%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2015%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

**June 22:** [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2022%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2022%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

**June 29:** [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2029%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2029%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)



## Way to go, Matt Helm



Matt Helm reportedly was the first person to use a self-propelled wheel cycle when he participated in Downingtown's 39<sup>th</sup> annual Good Neighbor Day road race on the Fourth of July. Matt continues to recover from a kayaking accident, which left him paralyzed from the waist down, several years ago. Photo provided by the History of Downingtown Football Facebook page.

## 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](http://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.

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *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 our raffle table please send an email to: [BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com), [Bigciarlone@gmail.com](mailto:Bigciarlone@gmail.com), or [Krazzielazzie224@yahoo.com](mailto: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 & registration](#) page. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

### *Movie Nite in Park*

Downingtowntown'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 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](tel:6106965247) or [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### *Links for the Library Golf Outing*

Downingtowntown 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 Downingtowntown Library. For more info, contact Mary Larsen at: [mlars315@gmail.com](mailto:mlars315@gmail.com).

### *Summer Jam Series*

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

### ***Mill at Anselma***

The Mill at Anselma will host Bruce Mowday on Thursday, July 6, when he will speak about his book, *Jailing the Johnston Gang: Bringing Serial Murders to Justice* at Bell Hall, Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. The event will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine & cheese reception, followed by Mowday's talk at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of the Mill at Anselma attend free of charge. Books will be available for purchase.

And The Mill, on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, also will celebrate **Life in the 1860s** from 10 AM to 4 PM Saturday, July 8, when it hosts the Union Patriotic League and the Mifflin Guard Civilians, reenacting groups who aim to educate the public regarding the life and work of American civilians during the mid-1800s. Their demonstrations will inform and delight visitors of all ages. Included in their demonstrations are open fire cooking and baking, chair caning, sewing and other needlework, knitting, ladies hair styling and products, band boxes, painting, and other hand crafts.

The Mill will also be running a demonstration that day to show how corn was ground over 150 years ago. 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](mailto:info@anselmamill.org), or visit [www.anselmamill.org](http://www.anselmamill.org). The Mill is open for tours Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free.

### ***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.

### ***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/](http://www.downingtownsensiors.org/programs/newsletter/)

### ***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](http://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/](http://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](mailto:cheryl.spaulding@josephspeople.org).