



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

Vol. 8, No. 26

June 29, 2017

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 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 locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local papers in the latter part of February 1965:

- The **Downingtoun Ministerium** voted to oppose proposed legislation, which provided public funds for parochial school busing. The local ministers said in a resolution: “We support the strengthening of the position of the public schools and oppose any use of public funds for the support of sectarian or private schools. Since busing is clearly an educational function, rather than one of health, welfare and safety, we are opposed to the bills presently before the Pennsylvania Senate seeking funds for parochial school busing.”

- **Downingtoun Paper Co.** bought Wilson Paper Box Co. of Richmond, VA. The local producer of folding box packaging had purchased the Simplex Paper Box Co, of Lancaster, in 1957. And the paperboard manufacturing division of DOPACO signed a three-year contract with the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Union, which provided an average wage increase of five cents an hour the first year, as well as improved medical insurance and vacation benefits.

- **Robert Shannon**, operator of the Downingtoun Airport, in West Bradford, received an Achievement Award from the Aero Club of Chester County

- Gina Myers, Pat Whitely, Rojayne Ellis, Betty Mercer and James Schofield of DHS were chosen to sing in a **chorus festival**, involving 160 high school students from Chester and Delaware Counties. And DHS senior **Robin Mattison** was named the high school’s 1965 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow, making her eligible for state and national honors.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtoun Rotary Club** were Stephen MacNeil, president; Bill Balderston, first vice president; Cheston Hall, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; Lloyd Swarner, treasurer; and directors Bill Bender, Charles Gabron and Jim McCahon.

- Receiving recognition at a court of honor conducted by **Boy Scout Troop 83**, of Lionville, were Robert Baker, Gary Cross, David Coover, Gary Marinelli, Daniel Hayes, Thomas Shreiner, Steve Behrndt, James Young and James Rowan,

- Members of a **DHS debating team**, who participated in a competition at Kennett Area High School, included Carl Harper, Stephen Hendry, David Seel, Susan Lipscombe, William Latoff, Sandra Irwin, Carol French and Harold Ellis.

- Elected as leaders of **St. Paul’s United Church of Christ**, Lionville, were Robert Worthington, vice president; Harry Levering, elder; James McClung, deacon; Mrs. Paul Evans, financial secretary; and Everett Wilson, trustee.

- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 172**, which met at Brandywine-Wallace School, included Paula Raysor, Barbara Zinn, Barbara Miller, Connie Matthews, Cherylene Nellius, Melinda King, Patsy Baldwin, Joanne Riffey, Joan Layne, Donna Fryberger, Linda Slater, Karla Johnson, Mary Rusden, Merle Decovny, Sharon Smith, Sherry Davidge, Linda McGirk, Diane Yost, Debra Alexander, Pamela and Debra Whiteman, Susan Dixon, Mary McLyman, Jackie Cozzone, Rosalinde Herrington, Debbie Mertz, Robin Radcliff, Linda Stillwell, Sandy Fry, Anne Johnson, Susan Nailor, Dawn Coy, Teresa Vandermark, Cindy Baker and Sharee Johnson.

- Second graders at **East Ward School**, Downingtoun, who presented a St. Valentine’s Day themed assembly program, included Charles Stoviak, Larry Bricker, Tracy Byford, Robin Davis, Caroline Dunn, Stephen Forbes, Lisa Henry, Casey Hockenberry, John Kohlhas, Vernon Lee, William Merkel, Timothy Mullen, Patricia Powell, William Renshaw, Nikki Rodkey, Daniel Sack, Deborah Schrupf, Ann Story, Harry Troupe, Ricky Wise and Thomas Young.

- **DHS wrestler** Mark Stephenson captured the 112-pound sectional championship in an upset win over the reigning champ. Jay Rambo, another Whippet grappler, reached the semi-final in the 95-pound competition.
- A “sky-high” **DHS boys’ basketball team** nearly upset league-leader West Chester, as the Whippets rallied in the final stanza to bring the score to 70-65 when the game ended. Downingtown’s top scorers were Len Collier and Jim Price, 17 points each; and Ken Sigle, 15 points.

It’s the former Fox Chase Inn in Exton



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the former Fox Chase Inn, at the intersection of Swedesford and Ship Roads in West Whiteland, near the Church Farm School. Built in 1765, it was the first “public house” in the township, serving locals and weary travelers until 1800. In 1984, the property was added to the National Register of Historic Places. For more info on the site, see: www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H064549_01D.pdf.

Clip/Paste session slated for Sunday

We’re looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society’s monthly clip/paste session, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, July 2, at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

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. 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.

Local news published more than 100 years ago

June 22, 1912: Fourteen freight cars transporting livestock on the low-grade of the Pennsylvania Railroad was wrecked near Downingtown after the locomotive encountered a broken switch. Although none of train crew was injured, "a force of Downingtown butchers hurried to the scene and the maimed animals were killed, and the beef and pork will be sold cheap." (*Duluth News-Tribune*)

April 1, 1913: Members of the newly organized DHS track team included Charles Way (captain), Raymond Greenleaf, Howard Simmons, John Gray, Horace Buchanan, Charles Philips, Roger Larkin, Harry Laudenbush and Norman Brown. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

February 5, 1914: John McFarlan, burgess (mayor) of Downingtown, was arrested and fined \$5 for breaking the borough's quarantine law, after attending church services, while a grandson at McFarlan's home was ill with chicken pox. The burgess claimed the arrest really was for spite "because he refused to furnish money to certain men during the election campaign." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

October 29, 1915: Frank Rimel, of Whitford, was awarded a medal for being Pennsylvania's champion corn grower. Rimel was asked by Gov. Brumbaugh how he grew 148 bushels of corn on one acre so that information could be passed on to other farmers in the state. (*Harrisburg Patriot*)

January 22, 1916: Pennsylvania Hall, a building on the campus of the Downingtown Industrial School in East Brandywine, was destroyed by fire, which was suspected to have been a case of arson. A similar fire had been there two months earlier, but it was extinguished before much damage caused. (*Harrisburg Patriot*)

November 21, 1916: Mrs. Rebecca Simms, of Downingtown, was arrested twice, fined and committed to the Chester County Prison for violating the state compulsory education law, because she refused to send two of her children to an elementary school in the borough, where all "colored" students in first through fifth grades were segregated in one "Jim Crow" classroom, located in the basement of West Ward School. Several Downingtown Negroes protested vigorously and requested that their children be sequestered in a separate school. (*Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*)

Vintage Ad of the Week

DOOLEY BROS.

Chester Valley Greenhouses

**Cut Flowers and
Potted Plants**

**FLORAL DESIGNS
AND**

DECORATIONS

Lincoln Hwy. East of Downingtown

Phone 874

Formerly John R. Stanley

This ad was originally published in the April 15, 1932 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Group Photo of the Week



Eighth graders at Downingtown's Central School (later known as West Ward School) who were taught by Mary Swayne in 1920, included, left to right: Lloyd Cassel, Ed Dixon, Charles Myers, Paul Shultz; second row, Attmore Pollock, Philip Stauner, Joe Moran, Robert Ax, Calvin Ax, Aaron McCowan, Raymond McClure, Bill Bray, Charles Deets; third row, Emerson Weimer, Dick Warren, William Shillady, unknown, Tony DiProspero, unknown; fourth row, Alice Campbell, Herb Ash, unknown; fifth row, Myrtle Hughes, Marian Hamm, Lillian Raudenbush, Helen Schultz, Marion Dague, Florence McVey, Esther Miley; sixth row, Helen Fisher, Grace Supplee, Katherine Hall, Mary Klusack, Ann Martin, Olive Nelms, Mary Manley, Violet Dowlin.

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

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.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Good Neighbor Day

A listing of Downingtown's Good Neighbor Day events on the Fourth of July 4th at Kerr Park can be accessed via: <https://goodneighboraday.com/event-schedule/>

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.

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.

Help Raise the Flag

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce, through its Chester County Friends of the Flag Committee, is offering a fantastic opportunity to proudly display your patriotism, with the purchase of a Star, with your business name or personal name to be displayed on the front window of Dane Decor on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown through the Fourth of July. Up to 50 stars will be sold at \$50 each, benefiting the care and maintenance fund for the 120 foot flag pole in Kerr Park, and the purchase of new flags (giant 30x60 American Flag flown on holidays and smaller 15x25 flag flown on other days of the year).

For more info, see: <http://dtrcc.com/RaiseTheFlag.html>

Summer Jam Series

The Downingtown Main Street Association's third annual Summer Jam series at Kerr Park in Downingtown will begin on Friday night, June 30. In addition to the music, the jams will include craft and food vendors. For more info, see: www.downingtownmainstreet.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 6:30pm 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 at Anselma on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, 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, or

visit 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 Cadwalader House is featuring a guessing game to identify post cards featuring special Pennsylvania sites. Prizes will be awarded for the most correctly identified photos. The Moore School is the original one room building where children can try on clothing replicas of the period and sit at historical desks. Authentic schoolbooks can be read and children can ring the school bell used to summon them not to be late. 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/

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.