



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

*The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner*

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## What & Where Was 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).

### **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](http://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](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

# What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early March 1981:

- Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted at the future site of the **First Baptist Church**, at West Pennsylvania and Lloyd Avenues, Downingtown. The congregation hoped to move into the new structure in December. The plans called for a seating capacity of 340 and an education wing for some 260 people. At the time, First Baptist was located at the corner of East Lancaster and Manor Avenues in the borough. Members of the construction committee included John Frazer, Henry Drumheller, Wilbur Felten, Kenneth Garris, Ronald Heckman, Vernon Jameson and Jeffrey Wendel. And members of the finance committee were Thomas Haas, Marguerite Charles, James Manley, Kay Oberteuffer and Spencer Windle. First Baptist was organized in 1891.
- Elected to the consistory of **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**, Lionville, were Mary Shoop, president; Harry Levering, vice president; Alice Behrndt, secretary; and Muriel Lewis, treasurer.
- Members of the parish life committee at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, were Michael Petrillo, Charles Sabotta, Carol Zeiders, Jim Madden, Dan Burgess, and Joe and Sherry Danke.
- The nine **Whippet wrestlers**, who advanced to the District I tournament included Tom Urban, Glenn Koser, Duncan McIntyre, Frank Saello, Ron Wenk, Jim Kaiser, Dave Ross, John Lucerne and Dave Massimini.
- **DHS sprinter Ted Robinson** won two gold medals at the Tournament of Champions indoor track meet at Lehigh University. And **DHS indoor track** records were set by the Whippet 1-mile relay team (Craig Ogburn, Ken Phillips, Jim Falcone and Mike Woodward), and the 880 relay team (Ogburn, John Kiefel, Todd Tyler and Mike Allen).
- **Old East Ward School** students who made the A Honor Roll were Julie Frank, Beth Anne Johnson, David Lucerne, Chitra Ramanathan, Paula Rucker, Chris Sabotta, Jennifer Snyder, Kelli Theakston and Cathy Samples.
- Officers of the **Downingtown Fireman's Relief Association** were William Barrett, president; Robert Stevens, vice president; William Wilmot, secretary; Robert Brown, treasurer; and directors Donald Page, Richard Myers and Vinton Smedley.
- West Whiteland Township supervisors approved of plans to convert an **early 19<sup>th</sup> Century house and barn** on a three-acre site on South Whitford Road into a restaurant and guest house. The house and barn were purchased from John Young by Carr and Knauer Inc., which had developed Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Lionville. Plans for the transformation were designed by John Miner Associates of West Chester.
- Brian Hetrick, Donny Lynn and Michael Rodriguez received the Arrow of Light, **Cub Scouting's** highest award at the Blue and Gold banquet of Pack 8, sponsored by Hopewell United Methodist Church, East Brandywine.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 216**, Lionville who were tapped into the Order of the Arrow were John Dockstader, Matt Woods and Chuck McLean.
- Officers of the deacons board at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, included Ed Popjoy, chairman; Alvin Wells, vice chairman; Jim Runyen, secretary; and Jim Dewees, treasurer. And officers of the board of trustees were Bill Butler, chairman; Walter Styer, vice chairman; Bill Butler, secretary; and Jack Funderwhite, treasurer.

## Registering for youth sports the old fashioned way



No one correctly identified the scene in the photo above, which was taken in 1980s. It's a shot of parents, in a local school, signing up their kids for one of the sports programs offered by the Lionville Youth Association. The registration process no longer is as arduous today, because most local youth sports organizations now enable parents to use the Internet to register their kids online.

## What was happening here 86 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the March 1931 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- A campaign to build a **swimming pool** in Downingtown's Kerr Park was "virtually assured" when some 70 representatives of Downingtown service clubs, veteran's group, fire companies, school district and borough government met. It was estimated that construction costs could be reduced by \$5,000 if some of the work was done by unemployed local men, and local plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other skilled tradesmen, who were under-employed during the Great Depression. The plan to finance the project, which received the most support from people at the meeting, was to form a "holding company," which would sell bonds to local residents. An advisory committee—composed of Chairman Charles Nice, Park Plank, Henry Lillard, William Ludwick, Paul Brown, Frank Parke, Herbert Ash, John Galt and Martin Binder—was formed to determine if the pool project should be pursued or abandoned.
- **East Ward School's** orchestra, which had only six to eight musicians when it was organized in the fall, had increased to 20 boys and girls. Ruth Shumway was their faculty

director. Home Economics students at East Ward were making towels, princess slips, kimonos, pajamas and dresses, plus infant's clothing which was given to the Visiting Nurse program.

- **Whitford Lodge** in Exton, home of the Chester County Library and a recreation center, was being re-papered and painted. A benefit bridge party was held there to pay for the paint.

- Members of the **DHS boys' basketball team**, who earned letters or certificates, included manager Robert Plank, Tom Deets, Joseph Sciarretta, Morris Yohn, Newlin Moore, Earl Entrekin, George Stine, Mike Mento, "Nip Westmoreland, Pusey Lammey, Paul Daylor and John Francella. And members of the **girls' basketball squad**, who received letters or certificates, were Hazel Walton, Marion Laird, Helen Lewis, Ella Mae Nichols, Eileen Farrell, Dorothy Nice, Annawyn Johnson, Ruth Pannebaker and Isabel Wray.

- An ad for **Swede's Clothing Store** in Coatesville offered street dresses, regularly priced at \$1.95, for only 69 cents to the first 200 Downingtown women who shopped there on the following Saturday or Monday.

- William Miller of Philadelphia, was hired to direct Downingtown's **Community Chorus**, according to Paul Brown, Chorus president.

### Group Photo of the Week



This is Downingtown Junior High's 1964 football team, which was undefeated. Members of the team were, left to right: first row, John Kline, Doug Gindin, Doug Habacker, Paul Siever, Larry Amoriello, Kenny Baen, Tony Cosenzo, Hank Hamilton, Ron Donnnon, Toby Morris, George Price, Aubrey Proctor, Donny Boggs, unknown; second row, Val DiEuliis, Jim Vible, Tom Isinger, Donald Walls, Jay Sigle, Jeff Reed, Eric Horsey, Fran Gillespie, Herb Brown, Joe Hilton, Steve Long, Bill Smith; third row, Ken Platt (line coach), Bob Boggs, Don Mitchell, Mike Norris, Jon Mitchell, Tom McCurdy, Neils Nelson, Don Wilgis, Carl Hamilton, John Stoviak, unknown, Tom Stoner, Farney Cattell, Chic Chiccino (head coach). Photo and names provided by Hank Hamilton.

*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, Dennis Walton and Jay Worrall. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

Vintage Ad of the Week

**PLAY GOLF**  
at  
**BO-GREEN**  
**MINIATURE GOLF COURSE**  
at  
**BELL TAVERN**  
ON LINCOLN HIGHWAY ONE MILE EAST OF  
**DOWNINGTOWN**  
**18-HOLE COURSE**

<b>Real Grass Fairways</b>	<b>Natural Bunkers</b>
<b>25c in Daytime</b>	<b>35c at Night</b>

This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on August 1, 1930.

## 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](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

## If you can't access our Hist-O-Grams

Some of our subscribers have been unable to access their Hist-O-Grams recently. We apologize. We're trying to resolve the problems with our bulk email service.

You can access last week's (**March 9 edition**) Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%209%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%209%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

*According to Icontact.com, our bulk email service, one of the reasons why some subscribers have difficulty opening their Hist-O-Grams is because they don't maintain their computers properly. Icontact.com recommends that you should have an up-to-date browser, provided by your Internet Service Providers (i.e. Verizon, Comcast, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) to access websites, or use a file clean-up program periodically, to minimize access challenges.*

Here are some of the alternative ways you can open your Hist-O-Grams:

1. Whenever you can't access a Hist-O-Gram by clicking on the historical society's website address link—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)—just **copy** the website address and then **paste it** into your web browser.

2. Also, you can use a **bookmark**, which is a list of favorite websites that provide a handy way to access Hist-O-Grams. By clicking on our bookmarked website—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)—you will gain access to our website's home page, where the latest Hist-O-Gram always will be on the left side.

Another bookmark option is: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html), which provides immediate access, in sequential order, to **every Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010**.

## Free Ads for Non-Profit

### *Lessons Learned*

Del Staecker, author of two award-winning WW II memoirs, will speak about "Lessons Learned from the Greatest Generation" at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 21. He'll share his insights from WW II stories, and his thoughts about heroes and the personal cost of war - and why their stories matter now. The meeting, which will be held at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown, is free and all are welcome.

### *Workshop for prospective DAR members*

Women, ages 18 and older, are encouraged to attend the "Prospective Member Workshop," conducted by the Chester County Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to be held from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, March 18 in the atrium of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Dr. Chester Springs. The library is located near the intersection of Routes 100 and 401, by Ludwigs Corner in West Vincent Township. It is about 4 miles from Exit 312 of the PA Turnpike.

### *E. Brandywine's speaker series*

Local author and historian Bruce Mowday will make a presentation on "The Brandywine—America's River" at 3:30 PM Sunday, March 19 to kick off the East Brandywine Historical Commission's spring speaker series. The program will be conducted at the township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

And at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 23, Marion Piccolomini, local author and historian, will present a program at the township building on her book, "World War II and Chester County" which describes how life changed for local residents, businesses and institutions during the World War II years.

### ***Senior Resource Fair***

A free Senior Resource Fair will be held from 9 AM until 3 PM on Tuesday, April 4 at the Downingtown Area Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The fair will include more than 20 local businesses and organizations, including travel planners, continuing education reps, and health and wellness resources.

### ***Oldies Night***

Jerry Blavat, the Geator, will appear at the Oldies Night dance party, sponsored by the Downingtown Area Senior Center from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 12 in the covered bridge room at the Kimberton Fire Co. on Route 113. Tickets, \$75 each, include food, beer and wine. With reserved seating, tickets must be pre-ordered by calling 610-269-3939.

### ***Alert's Golf Outing***

The Alert Fire Co. will have its fourth annual golf outing on Tuesday, May 8 at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee is \$110 for each golfer includes: registration and lunch starting at 11:30 AM, shotgun start at 1 PM, greens fees, cart, beverages on the course, awards dinner, various prizes and door prizes Proceeds benefit Alert Fire Co. For more info, see: <http://alertgolfouting.org/>.

### ***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).