



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 & Where Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the site 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 May 1981:

- In addition to three days of exhibits in the DHS gymnasium of hundreds of students' work from the art, industrial arts, and home economics departments, plus local students attending the Central Chester County Vo-Tech School, the annual **Living Arts Weekend at DHS** included a Friday night with band concert and a choral concert on Sunday afternoon. Apple Logan and Jim Utz won the one-artist show competition.

- The school board approved of these suggested **lunch prices** in school cafeterias: 60 cents for elementary schools, and 70 cents for secondary schools. Faculty and staff were charged \$1.25 for their lunches.

- Donna Lawson, Downingtown's recreation director, told Borough Council that two volleyball courts were planned to be built in **Kardon Park**.

- Ronald Beebe, East Brandywine's building inspector, reported that the **Bondsville Mill** property, owned by the Tabas brothers, had become a major hazard. He was particularly concerned about children playing and riding their bikes inside the mill's old building. "It's like a problem waiting to be a disaster," said Beebe.

- A barn, once owned by John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia department magnate, was lost in a fire on the **Devereux Foundation** property in Wallace Township.

- **Brandywine Savings and Loan Association**, headquartered at Pennsylvania and Manor Avenues in Downingtown, was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

- **Uppatina's School**, which had 63 students in 12 grades and was an alternative school near the hamlet of Font in Upper Uwchlan for two years, moved to the former site of the Green Bank School, a residential school in Upper Uwchlan for "emotionally disturbed boys." Uppatina's, which had been located at several Chester County sites since its founding in 1971, drew its name from the students' description of the original school, when classes were conducted in the house of a woman named Tina.

- Mrs. William Balderston and Mrs. Harvey Cook were sweepstakes winner at the flower show conducted by the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan**.

- Elected as officers of the **Caln Business and Professional Association** were Conde McGinley, president; William Waltman, internal vice president; Dale Becker, external vice president; Dottie McGill, secretary; Cyd Poltrone, treasurer; and directors Robert Barber, Charles case, Robert Edge and Sam Slokum.

- **DHS tracksters** Ted Robinson came in fifth in the 100 M race, and Bruce Tiller placed fourth in the 300 M hurdles event at the state track and field championships.

- Students, who took over as **administrators of DHS** for a day, included: principal Janet Brown; and assistant principals Jeff Corey, Jeanne Hessinger and Joseph Fischer.

- Winners from DHS of the VICA competition at the **Central Chester County Vo-Tech School** included Carol Clouser, health assistant; Keith Rolland, machine shop; Ted Laverty, appliance repair; Gina Napoleone, cosmetology; and Glenn Arters, cabinetmaking.

- Officers of the women's group at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Jackie Myer, president; Louise Mullings, vice president; Karen Ely, secretary; Barbara Meier,

programs; Ann Niemann, hospitality; Wendy Bonaiuto, membership; and Marlene, Christian action.

- Members of **West Bradford's Junior Girl Scout Troop 412**, who participated in a bike hike at Ridley Creek Park, were Jennifer Fernald, Melanie Kefer, Daniele Chapman, Michele Clark, Linda Daza, Vicky Gallimore, Tracy Mace, Erica McCants, Jennifer Stanley, Nicole Williams and Teresa Spagnuola. Their leaders were Jacqueline Mace and Irene Daza.
- The **DHS girls' lacrosse team** finished in third place in the Ches-Mont League, after beating Coatesville 10-8 and Great Valley 10-8 in overtime. Amy Horne scored five goals and Terri Bright tallied four in the Coatesville match. And Fern Faller notched the winning goal against Great Valley. Coach Sally Anderson lauded the play of Megan DeGaray in both contests.
- The **DHS boys' tennis team** finished third in the Ches-Mont League with a 9-2 season record after beating Coatesville 6-1. Whippet winners against the Red Raiders were singles players Frank Englund, Mike Gaul and Tom Lambert. Doubles teams which also won were Frank Pechin-Mike Biddle, Rich Kaluza-Andy Lefko, and Mike McShane-Jeff Heckman.
- When the **DHS softball squad** defeated Coatesville 9-1, as Laura Kulkis tossing a no-hitter, the Whippets finished its C-M League season in a first place tie with Pottsgrove. Sherri Clayton, three-for-four, and Jenny Gerlach, two-for-two, led the Downingtown offense.
- Amy Horne and Vic Johnson were named the **DHS outstanding athletes** at the high school's all-sports banquet.

Downingtown area news published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* more than 100 years ago

- The day after E. P. Dwight of Philadelphia turned over his 465-acre estate in West Bradford to the **Philadelphia YMCA**, to be used to be used as a camp ground, the large barn on the property was destroyed by fire. Also lost in the blaze on April 15, 1895 were the livestock (17 cows and 7 horses) and farm implements owned by James Laird, the estate's tenant farmer.
- In April 1900, some 25 Downingtown golfers organized a **golf club** in the Gallagherville area, just west of the borough's border. There were plans included a clubhouse as well as a golf course.
- According to the December 13, 1895 edition of the *Inquirer*, Thomas Dugan, a Downingtown resident, who had been a prosperous saloon-keeper in Philadelphia, but now he was a poor man. That all changed when a Catholic priest from Philadelphia took a train to Downingtown, and gave Dugan a **package containing \$300**. The priest told Dugan that the thief, who had stolen \$300 from Dugan's saloon 22 years earlier, revealed the burglary during his dying confession. And he gave the money to the priest and asked him to return it to Dugan. "The money was accepted, and will be of great help to Dugan in his dying days."

This photo offers a glimpse of how things have changed in the Downingtown area



Many subscribers expressed their frustration over trying to identify the location of the site in the photo above, which was in last week's Hist-O-Gram. On the surface, it's just a photo of a typical backyard in America, several generations ago, when housewives hung their newly washed laundry on a clothesline.

Specifically, it's a photo of the backyard of Vincent and Anna Burkey's home at 467 Manor Avenue in Downingtown, sometime in the 1950s. That's before the high school, now known as DHS West, was built on the Pollock family's farmland, which stretched beyond that backyard in the photo. And the stove on the right side shows that the Burkeys were allowed to burn their trash in the backyard.

Back then, the Downingtown Area School District was comprised of a borough with several paper mills and other manufacturers, surrounded by rural townships, several of which still operated one-room school houses. And some of the boys who lived in the borough in the 1950s, used to hunt for pheasant and small game in the fields in the photo, before attending morning classes at the Junior-Senior High School down on Manor Avenue. Those were the days when DHS was much smaller than neighboring Coatesville and West Chester High Schools.

The photo also offers a glimpse of how things have changed--before the borough evolved from an industrial town to a middle class bedroom community, before the suburbanization of the countryside surrounding the borough, and before the consolidation of the school district.

And, over the past 50-plus years, the population of the Downingtown School District has quintupled, from about 12,000 residents in 1960; to over 60,000 people living in the district today, making it the eighth largest school district in the state. Also, during that span, the school district's academic programs and other activities have warranted statewide and national recognition.

The photo was provided by the Burkey's daughter, Ruth Ann Protivnak, who still lives on Manor Avenue in the borough.

Vintage Ad of the Week



***Tonight's
the Night!***
*that the BIG things
are going to happen
at the*

Chas. F. Moran Post

American Legion

**C WELFARE
CARNIVAL**

CONCERT
DOWNINGTOWN H. S. BAND

Gate Prize

The Midway and the Clowns

Oodles of Fun

And You May
***Get an Ice-O-Matic
Refrigerator Free***

Home-Made Cakes BY AUXILIARY
LADIES

This ad was originally published in the July 10, 1931 edition of the Downingtown Archive.

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.

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 our website's home page is access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.

You also can find on the **right side of the home page of our website**, www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, access to:

1. **Hist-O-Gram Archives**, which provides access to every Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.
2. **Then and Now Videos**, which provide short video clips depicting how local sites have changed over the years.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Memorial Day

There will be a Memorial Day parade in the village of Marshallton in West Bradford at 1 PM on Sunday, May 28. The Memorial Day service at Marinelli Park on Chestnut Street, Downingtown, will begin at noon on Sunday, May 28. And Downingtown's Memorial Day parade will begin at Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania in the borough, at 10 AM on Monday, May 29, followed by a service at Kerr Park.

Movie Night in Kerr Park

Downingtown's Parks and Recreation Commission will host its first Movie Nite near the gazebo in Kerr Park at 8 PM on Saturday, May 20. The movie of the night is TROLLS! This is a free family-friendly event. The commission will provide popcorn while supplies last. Please bring refreshments, chairs and blankets for your family.

Relay for Life

The Central Chester County Relay for Life will be held from 10 AM Saturday, May 20 until 10 AM Sunday, May 21 at DHS West, 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more details, see: http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY17EC?fr_id=79649&pg=entry.

All Wheels Consignment Sale

The Downingtown Park and Recreation Commission will conduct a used bike consignment sale from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, May 13 in Kerr Park. People wanting to consign a bike for sale are welcome to drop it off beginning at 8 AM by the skate park. All recreation wheels are welcome to be dropped off. There is a \$100 price cap for consigning a bike. 25% of the proceeds of all sales will go the Park and Recreation Commission for future activities. There also will be a Bike Safety presentation, skateboarding exhibition and a DJ, plus games for the kids.

Mac & Cheese

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its sixth annual Chester County Mac & Cheese Cookoff at noon on Sunday, June 4 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. For more details, see: www.macncheesecookoff.com/about/

Grist Mill Demonstration

The Mill at Anselma will provide grinding demonstrations from 10 AM until 4 PNM on Saturday, May 13. Visitors will hear the rumble of the Colonial-era wooden gears, watch the power of the 16ft steel water wheel, and feel the corn meal as it pours out of the mill stones. The Mill served its local agricultural community for nearly 300 years and is considered the most complete example of a Colonial-era custom grist mill in the United States. Restored and recognized as a National Historic Landmark, the Mill provides a powerful educational experience, allowing visitors to experience Pennsylvania's industrial and agricultural heritage through milling demonstrations, tours of the site and hands-on activities. Admission to the Mill is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free. The Mill is located on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Rt. 113 in Chester Springs. For more information, contact the Mill at 610-827-1906, email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of Downingtown Library's Spring Book Sale has switched into a bag sale mode. You can fill a paper grocery bag with novels, biographies, non-fiction, gardening, kids' books, movies, music, etc. for only \$3. Hurry in for the best selection. All proceeds benefit the programs and services of the library.

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 additional information, call 610-280-9522.

Milford Mills, a Lost Village

Author and historian Catherine Quillman will speak about Milford Mills, a village that was "lost" with the creation of Marsh Creek State Park, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 21. The program will be conducted at the Park's west boat launch area. In the event of bad weather, the program will be offered at the Township Building on Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

Fine Arts Festival

The Downingtown Fine Arts Festival will be held at 202 E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough, from 10 AM until 6 PM on Saturday, May 27 and from 10 AM until 5 PM on Sunday, May 28. The free festival is presented by David Oleski Events and the Downingtown Main Street Association, in partnership with the Borough of Downingtown. For more info on the festival, see: <http://downingtownfinearts.com/aboutdfaf.html>.

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.

How Stars Work

Fronefield Crawford III, PhD. professor of Astronomy, who teaches experimental methods of astrophysics at Franklin & Marshall College, will explain the basics of stars, physical mechanism by which they shine, their lives, etc. at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 16, in the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Nite at the Races

Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas committee will hold a Nite at the Races fundraiser at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown, on Saturday, May 20. Doors open at 6 PM. Tickets are \$25 which includes food, beer & soda. Information about the event, how to buy tickets and horses can be found on the Christmas website at www.dtownchristmas.com or by calling Dianne at 484-678-6835. The Committee is hunting for raffle prizes and businesses to place ads in the event program. Deadline is May 10. Proceeds will go towards the 2017 Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas event.

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