



**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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## Where and What Is This?



The first person who correctly identifies the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com)

# What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the East Branch Citizen in early November 1981:

- The **DHS marching band** won the state championship. The band's director, Brent Lewis, was a temporary replacement for Gary Wagner, who was on a sabbatical leave until January 1982. Lewis had earned a BS degree in music education at West Chester State College in 1979. Soon after taking on the band director position at DHS in August, Lewis realized the high school band was pretty good, especially after it did well in several cavalcade competitions. After the band returned from the state competition at Hershey at 10 PM, 141 musicians marched down Pennsylvania and Manor Avenues in the borough to the high school.

Drum majors were Amy Bender and Erica Abrams; Lisa Keller was the silk captain. Michele Lumniello led the pom-pom squad. Rifle captain was Anna Etheridge, and Gwen Glattes was majorette captain. Among Lewis's staff was Ed Otto, a DHS grad and freshman at West Chester State, who was responsible for the rifle squad and now is director of the DHS West band.

- West Bradford officials were considering the creation of an **ambulance corps**. Jack Hines, township manager, said there had been 350 ambulance calls in West Bradford in 1980.

- Fran DiFuria, a DHS grad and a music education major at West Chester State College, won the **Miss Chester County** contest.

- West Pikeland supervisors were informed that the **Yellow Springs** complex was plagued by financial problems, and were considering a means of retaining ownership of the historical property in Chester Springs.

- Plans to divide East Brandywine Township into **two voting precincts** were presented to the supervisors. The suggested change was caused by significant growth, to about 1,000 registered voters in the township, and a voter turnout that exceeded 50 percent in recent elections. The current polling site was the East Brandywine Fire Co, and either Brandywine-Wallace School or the clubhouse at the Culbertson Run development were potential second polling places.

- Members of the Women of **Messiah Lutheran Church** group, who were making plans for Christmas bazaar, included Pat Musselman, Yvonne Petrillo, Carol Marshall, Lorie Petrie, Wanda Snyder, Caroline Hadfield and Helen Petrie.

- The **DHS football team** beat Great Valley 16-15, after Larry Lark caught a pass from quarterback Mike McCormick and scampered for a touchdown. The other Whippet TD was scored by Keith Butcher, and Brad Novak booted a field goal. Coach Chic Chiccino also cited the defensive efforts of Penn Frey and Randy Molnar, who each had eight tackles, and Lee Ellmaker, who had seven.

- Members of the **DHS soccer squad** who made the all-Ches-Mont team included Steve Forgione, Rich Evangelista, Don Wix, Song In Son (also named the league's MVP) and Dave Zynn. And Whippets named to the all-C-M League **field hockey team** were Koren Horsey, Laura Gaspari, Fern Faller, Kathy Burke, Tisha Eagles, and Barb McAuliffe. Named to the all-Ches-Mont **cross-country team** were Joanne Migliaccio and Bret Urbine

- Stephanie Morris won the best costume prize in the Downingtown **Halloween parade**, sponsored by the Chesco Sertoma Club.

- Winners of the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Commission **pumpkin carving contest** included Michael McHenry, smallest and funniest; Dana Tarka, scariest and first finished; Allison McHenry, largest and last-finished.

## It was the fire at the Downingtown Farmers Market



Dennis Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as the Downingtown Farmers Market fire in 1976. The Farmers Market was built in 1952 by Tabas Enterprises, and it closed in 1999. It was located where the Staples and Home Depot stores are now, on the northern section of the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center.

Mark Rozzo, who recalls seeing the smoke from the fire while he was at recess at East Ward School, sent this 1979 *New York Times* article about the Farmers Market after it was rebuilt: [www.nytimes.com/1979/07/08/archives/farmers-markets-shopping-is-a-carnival.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/1979/07/08/archives/farmers-markets-shopping-is-a-carnival.html?_r=0)

## Leftover books on sale for \$5 each or a bag-full for \$5

Thanks to everyone who came to the Historical Society's Used Book Sale last weekend and bought nearly 1,000 books. However, due to the incessant rainfall on Sunday, sales were lower than expected, and we've got **more than 1,000 books left**.

That's why we're extending the Book Sale to Sunday afternoon (1-4 PM), November 5. Better yet, we have reduced the price of books to **only 50 cents**, except for some marked, high-value books and sets. Or you can buy **a bag-full of books for just \$5**. The Historical Society will supply bags, or you can bring your own bag.

# What locals were talking about 84 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in September, October and November of 1933.

- Repeal of the federal **Prohibition Law** (784 yeas, 401 nays) and approval of **sports events on Sundays** (841 yeas, 404 nays) highlighted the election results in Downingtown.
- The **Collins and Aikman mill** on Bondsville Road in East Brandywine, which had been idle for about two years, was expected to re-open and hire more than 300 employees. The increase in the work force at the mill was due to the installation of 150 weaving looms, used to produce plush materials. The shutdown several years earlier, which resulted in moving all of the finishing and dyeing equipment to the firm's Philadelphia plants, was caused by problems with dissolution of spent dye water.
- **Hopewell Methodist Church** in East Brandywine celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The church was founded in 1783 by James Batten, after Francis Asbury, a Methodist circuit rider, "stood barefoot and preached to a congregation of men in homespun and women in sunbonnets and aprons," according to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township*.
- The **Lionville Fire Company's** banquet included the burning of its mortgage, which had financed the construction of its two-story firehouse, built on Village Avenue in the summer of 1929. Officers of the company were Humphrey Happersett, president; Sherman Kirkpatrick, vice president; Alvin Phipps, secretary; Edmund Pechin, treasurer; William Peterson, chief; Kenton Newlin, assistant chief; and trustees Joseph Phipps and Richard Meredith.
- About 1,200 spectators turned out for the brief dedication program of the **new football field** behind the high school, before the DHS football team's opening game, against Phoenixville, which ended in a scoreless tie.
- Downingtown was expected to have a "**professional**" **basketball team** in the Lancaster County League. Other teams in the league were Brownstown, Adamstown, Lancaster and New Holland. The Downingtown squad was expected to include: George "Dink Irwin, DHS Class of 1924, who briefly played for Cleveland in the American Basketball League; and Carson Elliot, former center for Yale. However, those hopes were dashed when managers of the Downingtown team had to withdraw from the league because they failed to post a \$50 forfeit fee.
- However, a **Community Basketball League** was formed in Downingtown. Teams in the league included: the Red Men, the Field Club, Greenleaf's Cowboys, Downingtown Paper Co. and the Independents. The games were played in a gymnasium on the second floor of the Minquas Fire Co.
- The **Pennsylvania Railroad** was offering local folks their "last chance" to see the Chicago World's Fair by paying only \$15.75 for a round trip ticket for a train, which left Downingtown on Saturday, October 21 and returned to the borough four days later.
- Local physician Dr. Thomas Parke reported to the board of the **Downingtown-Chester valley Community Chest** that a patient had to pay \$3.99 per day at Chester County Hospital.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**SAVE — SAVE — SAVE**  
**1949 GAS RANGES**  
**Up To \$35.00 Off On All Old Models**  
**February Clearance Sale**  
**To Make Room For New 1950 Stock**

**LOOK AT THESE VALUES**

Magic Chef 40" With High Broiler . . . . .	195.00
Quality 36" With Top Covers . . . . .	109.95
Quality 36" Deluxe 4-Burner . . . . .	159.00
Quality 36" Deluxe With Simmer Burners . . . . .	174.95
Enterprise 36" With 4 Burners . . . . .	124.95
Caloric 6-Burner Hi-Broiler, Clock Controlled, Automatic Oven and Broiler Ignition . . . . .	299.95
Caloric Double Oven, Automatic Ignition . . . . .	224.95

Many others at tremendous savings. All outdated models must be sold at once.  
Low Down Payments and Easy Monthly Terms

**CANBY GAS CO.**  
**236 BRANDYWINE AVE., DOWNINGTOWN**  
**PHONE 288**

Showroom Open Daily 8.00 A. M. to 5.00 P. M.  
Evenings and Saturday Afternoons by Appointment. Friday Evening till 9 P. M.

This ad was originally published in the February 9, 1950 edition of the Daily Local News.

## Group Photo of the Week



The dummy drag was one of the many events youngsters who attended East Brandywine Fire Company's recent open house participated in. Attendees also saw demonstrations of firefighters forcing doors, cutting holes in a roof, and advancing hose lines through a smoke-filler structure to rescue a victim.

## Access to latest historic "Then & Now" photo sequences

You can see all of the "Then & Now" morphed photo sequences of local historic sites via YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B\\_uVb6lhZku7mw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIh25kTu3B_uVb6lhZku7mw/videos)

## **In case you missed any Hist-O-Grams in October**

If you missed any of the Hist-O-Grams we published in October, you can access them now by clicking on:

October 5: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%205%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%205%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 12: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 19: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

October 26: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2026%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/October%2026%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

## **Clip Joint will be open on Sunday, November 5**

One way you can recover from all the Halloween candy you've been eating is by coming to the Historical Society's monthly Clip Joint session, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, November 5, when you'll have an opportunity to help clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection. The session will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

## **New site on how to trace your property's history**

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on this revised site: [www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/35680](http://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/35680)

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Red Cross Blood Drives***

The American Red Cross will accept donations of blood at the following local sites: 2-7 PM on Thursday, Nov. 2, at Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Road, Downingtown; 9 AM-2 PM, on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, 455 Boot Road, Downingtown; 7 AM-5 PM on Friday, Nov. 10, at Collegium Charter School, 535 James Hance Court, Exton; 2-7 PM on Thursday, Nov. 2 at Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike (Rte. 322), Glen Moore.

### ***Volunteers Needed***

The Mill at Anselma is recruiting responsible, enthusiastic volunteers, age 18+, who are interested in either giving tours or in the planning and execution of fundraising events. Information sessions will take place at The Mill at Anselma, 1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs, on Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm and again on Thursday, November 16 at 11am. Attendance is encouraged at one session, if possible, to learn about The Mill and what is involved in being a volunteer

Tour guides will receive on-going training and support related to the history of the mill, and the workings of the Colonial-era gears and stones. They will also will have the opportunity to meet many interesting people from near and far and to help out on demonstration grinding days and other special events such as Colonial Children's Day and Life in the 1860's Day. Tours of The Mill take place on weekends from April to December.

Event volunteers will be welcome to contribute fund raising ideas and to help plan and execute events both large and small. In addition to planning events, help is always needed with marketing, event registration, raffle sales and auction assistance.

If you can afford a little time and are interested in joining our team, please call Kathy Lovell at 610-827-1906 and plan to attend one of the informational meetings.

### ***Mills & More Mills***

Dan Campbell, with over 30 years of experience in architecture and historic preservation, will present a slide show, out-lining techniques used in finding and documenting historic mills, including many that were in the East Brandywine area, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, November 19. The presentation, sponsored by the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will be held at the township building on Route 322 in Guthrieville.

### ***A Play About Ben Franklin's Sister, Jenny***

Local historian Gene Delaplane will narrate the play "Jenny," who was Ben Franklin's youngest and extremely poor sibling. Drawing on primary sources, the play focuses on the interaction between Benjamin and his sister who is considered his life-long confidant. The play plants an excellent portrait of the challenges of a woman's life during 18th Colonial America. The play will be presented at 7 PM by the West Caln Historical Society on Tuesday, November 21, in the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown (Coatesville for GPS). Everyone welcome, no charge. Meetings are free and open to the public

### ***This Run's Personal***

1,500 people are expected to participate in the Team CMMD Foundation's fourth annual 5K run and 1-mile walk over Downingtown's streets on Saturday morning, November 4, beginning at DHS West High School. Proceeds go to local cancer families. For more details, go to: <http://teamcmmd.org/project/this-runs-personal/>

### ***Senior Center Programs & Activities***

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center via: [www.downingtownseniors.org](http://www.downingtownseniors.org)

### ***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).