



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. 40

October 5, 2017

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

Access to latest historic “Then & Now” photo sequences

You can see all of the “Then & Now” morphed photo sequences of local historic sites via:
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Then_and_Now.html

What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the early part of October 1981:

- The **Downingtown Library's** board of directors turned down an offer to move from its historic facility at 330 E. Lancaster Ave. to the Downing Center (now the Milltown Shopping Center) on East Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough. Stanley Landis, board president, said the library couldn't afford the move because--with only a \$45,000 operating budget and the proceeds realized from the sale of the old library, there still wouldn't enough money left to refurbish the new site in the shopping center.
- Fran Hearon, of the **East Brandywine Park and Recreation Commission**, said a private youth athletic association should take over the township's growing soccer (16 squads) and baseball (25 teams) programs and other activities because the township could no longer afford to subsidize those youth sport programs.
 - Recent **property transfers** included: 110 Beech Street, Uwchlan, \$90,350; 1405 Dodd Drive, West Bradford, \$67,630; 8 Skyline Drive, West Pikeland, \$165,000.
 - When Cliff Irons started as **rural postal carrier** in the Downingtown area in 1954, he made some 525 daily deliveries over a 72-mile route. Over the years, he continued to handle some 500+ stops along a route that was reduced to 44 miles, as houses continued to pop up in the townships surrounding Downingtown.
 - In 1960, **Cliff Robb** opened the Carriage House Answering Service at the rear of 343 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, after he went blind as a young adult. More than 20 years later, the 24-hour, 365-days telephone answering service had grown to 220 clients, who paid \$40 a month to handle calls for one phone number.
 - Those who taught Sunday School over the summer at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchan, included Bill Weber, John Meissener, Erma Hegarty, Walt Longenecker, Bill Butler, Randy Morris and Don Anthony.
 - New members of **Boy Scout Troop 79**, Glen Moore, led by John Miller and Dave Dunlap, included David Denlinger, David DiFabio, George Guerra, Joe Lennon, Bryan McDonough, Don Reber, John Ross, and John Walker.
 - DHS students who were **Merit Scholars** included Glenn Winship, Grant Angeny, Robert March, Brian Robison, David Plante, Richard Smith, Bryan Gallman, James Price, Ruth Schlomann, Laura McGeorge, William Vourvoulis, Robbyn Rosenzweig, Phyllis Grove and Renee Georg.
 - The **DHS field hockey team** stretched its 5-0 unscored-upon, Ches-Mont record with wins over O. J. Roberts and Spring-Ford. Barb McAuliffe tallied the Whippets' goal in the Owen J. match, and Jen Gerlach rebounded a Kathy Burke shot for the goal scored against the Rams.
 - The **DHS soccer team** improved its league record to 5-1 by beating Boyertown 3-0 and Spring-Ford 6-1. Against the Bears, Rick Evangelista and Andy Rosenlieb scored goals in the opening frame, and Steve Forgione knocked in a goal in the third period. Coach Paul Hurley used 33 players in the Spring-Ford contest.
 - The **DHS cross-country squads** picked up wins in the girls' and boys' competition against O. J. Roberts. Bret Urbine, who took first place, led all the 10 Whippets who crossed the finish line before any Rams did. And Joanne Migliaccio, Bernie Cremin, Connie Kramer, Anne Borland, Julie Thornbury, Jennifer Remley and Ave Gaffney finished in the top 10 in the girls' competition.

- The **DHS girls' tennis team** ended Pottsgrove's 53-match winning streak in a come-from-behind 7-6 victory, as the Whippets ran their Ches-Mont record to 7-0. Gwen Holtan decided the win when she came back from a 1-5 deficit in a three-hour singles match.
- Tracy McShane received DeMucci-Woodward 5 Gold Medal Award at the **St. Anthony's swim team's** banquet. Also, Donna Sayre was named the hardest worker; Raena Latina won the Most Coachable award, and Susan Smith received the Most Improved award.
- Six DHS students, among the 18 high school girls vying for the **Chester County Junior Miss** title, were Maryann Bixler, Darlene DiLibero, Joanne Hessinger, Christine Remley, Ruth Schlomann and Marcia Terry.

It was at Green Street & E. Lancaster Avenue in borough



Cathy Murphy is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as Allen Hughes' Esso Station at Green Street and East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. Currently, it's the site of JAD's Pizza Shop.

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, you'll find access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010 via: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html

What locals were talking about 84 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in July and August 1933.

- When students in the Downingtown School System returned to classes after their summer vacation, the **District's total enrollment** was 1,215 pupils. The enrollment for West Ward School was 394, and East Ward's was 283. And there were 394 youngsters going to the new Junior-Senior High School, including the recent graduates of the two-year, high schools in East Brandywine and Wallace Townships.

- An informal survey of **Downingtown industries** showed that business had picked up significantly, and many were hiring in the midst of the nation's Great Depression. The Downingtown Manufacturing Co. was running full-time again. And the Bicking Paper Company's No. 1 mill, which had been shut for several years, had begun to operate an eight-hour shift. The Downingtown Paper Co. was operating three eight-hour shifts and had enough orders to continue operations indefinitely. And wages had increased and employment was up at the Downingtown Iron Works. Also, the Nice Yarn Corp. reported many new orders, enabling it to double its number of employees. That probably was why Ray Sheeler was going to move his Chevrolet dealership from the corner on Manor and East Lancaster Avenues, into a new building across from the Downingtown National Bank.

- The six members of the **Downingtown Barbers Association** agreed to these prices: 40 cents for a haircut and 20 cents for a shave. The group's officers were Archie Baen, president; Charles Deputy, secretary; and Clarence Miller, treasurer.

- The new **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** was enjoying much success, with 65 members.

- Summertime was the season for two-weekend **carnivals and fetes** in Downingtown. An estimated profit of about \$2,000 was realized at the Alert Fire Co. carnival, held in July, where a Chevrolet was the grand prize and Eleanor Hayes won the Most Popular Woman contest. At the American Legion's carnival, held in early September on the grounds of the Woman's Club, the grand prize was a Plymouth sedan. And an electric refrigerator was given away at the lawn fete, held in early August on the grounds of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the Johnsontown section of the borough.

- A contingent of **17 DHS football players** left for two weeks of training camp at the Reading YMCA's facility near Earlville.

- Officers of the **Downingtown Twilight Baseball League** were Robert Ash, president; Stanley Dowlin, treasurer; Tom Courtless, secretary; George Taylor, arbitrator; and Don Ingram, scribe.

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

TEN TONS IN THE BIN — *As Ordered*



It is the homes of the thrifty which receive Spring and Summer delivery of coal. . . . those are the thoughtful people Just plain arithmetic proves the wisdom of ordering coal now. Note the prices then figure out for yourself the sav- you can enjoy.

PRICES FOR APRIL Prices will advance 20c per month

Pea Coal	—	\$9.25 per ton
Egg Coal	—	\$11.50 per ton
Nut Coal	—	\$11.75 per ton
Stove Coal	—	\$11.75 per ton
Koppers Coke	—	\$11.50 per ton

JOHN McGRAW & SON

PHONE 3-J

DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

In case you missed one of last month's Hist-O-Grams

If you missed any of the Hist-O-Grams we published in September, here's how you can still access them:

September 7: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/September%207%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

September 14: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2014%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

September 21: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2021%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

September 28: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/September%2028%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

Historical Society will pick up your used books

You can have someone from the Historical Society pick up your used books, CDs and VDs, for our Book Sale in October, at your home or business. That can be arranged by calling 610-269-1709 and leaving a message, or by sending an email to: dths1709@gmail.com.

Otherwise, you can bring the books and discs, from 1-4 PM on Sundays, to Ashbridge House, our headquarters in the Ashbridge Square shopping center, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln.

Types of hard cover books and paperback/soft cover books we're looking for include: Children's, History, Non-Fiction and Biographies, Sets, Fiction, and current Self-Help and Computer books.

Used books that aren't acceptable for the Book Sale include: Textbooks, Old Self-Help Books, Water-Damaged Books, Books with hand-writing in them, Books with damaged or torn covers, and encyclopedias.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will hold their Fall Book Sale at the library, from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 20; from 9 AM-4 PM on Saturday, Oct. 21; and from 1-4 PM on Sunday, Oct. 22. Donations of gently used books, movies and music can be dropped off at the library during business hours through Saturday, October 14.

Fire Prevention Open House

There will be an Fire Prevention open house from 6:30-9 PM on Wednesday, October 11 at both of these Downingtown fire stations: Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., and Minquas Fire Co., 141 Wallace Ave. Includes fire prevention demos, fire trucks and refreshments.

Chicken BBQ & Bake Sale

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Chester County Marine Corps League will have a bake and Chicken BBQ sale from noon until 5 PM on Saturday, October 14 at their quarters, 430 Acorn Lane (enter from Chestnut Street and behind Victory, Downingtown. Pre-orders for the boxed BBQ dinners are welcome, as are walk-ins, which are available until 4 PM. Please contact 610-827-9281 if you wish to pre-order the BBQ dinners. Dinners include 1/2 of a succulent BBQ chicken, petite potatoes, side, dinner roll, dessert & beverage. Cost: \$12; credit cards accepted. The League also hosts Bingo games on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month, and Auxiliary meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month. Bake sale includes tantalizing treats--pies, cookies, brownies, etc.--will be baked by the Ladies Auxiliary in their certified kitchen. Proceeds benefit veterans and their families.

Family Genealogy

If you're a family historian, have ancestors from England, or want to learn how to discover your family history, you should come to the East Brandywine Township Historical Commission program to hear Kris Barone's talk on her journey discovering the Cresswell family that settled in Southern Chester County in the early 18th Century. The free, public program will be conducted at 3:30 PM on Sunday, October 15 in the township building on Route 322 in Guthriesville.

Fire Prevention Open House

There will be an Fire Prevention open house from 6:30-9 PM on Wednesday, October 11 at both of these Downingtown fire stations: Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., and Minquas Fire Co., 141 Wallace Ave. Includes fire prevention demos, fire trucks and refreshments.

Christmas Care Package

The annual Military Christmas Care Package Drive, for items to be sent to military personnel, ends on Monday, October 23. For a listing of items that can be included in the packages and local drop-off points, see:

www.downingtown.org/images/OpMilitaryChristmas2017.jpg

Fall Fest

The Downingtown Friends Meeting will have its annual Fall Fest at the historic Quaker Meeting House, 809 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, from 9 AM until 4 PM on Saturday, October 14. Admission and parking are free. Featured will be thrift, garden and baked items for sale, plus games. For more details, see:

<http://downingtownfriendsmeeting.org/fallfestival.htm>

Boo Bash

The Downingtown **Parks & Rec Commission** is having a **Halloween Boo Bash in Kerr Park**, from 4-9 PM on Saturday, October 28. Festivities include a costume and pumpkin carving contest as well as a Halloween-themed double feature.

Drug Take Back Event:

You can drop off expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs at the Downingtown Borough Hall annex building from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 28, The DEA cannot accept liquids, or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200 or email info@downingtown.org

DHS Class of 1967 Reunion

The DHS Class of 1967 will have its 50th reunion on the weekend of October 13-14. Following a tour of the STEM Academy, where the class attended Junior High School, they will get together at the Victory Brewing Co. on Friday. The main event will be held at 6 PM at St. Anthony's Lodge on Saturday evening. For details, see:

www.downingtownalumni.org/Documents/Reunions/Classof1967_50th_Oct2017.pdf

Freedom Isn't Free

Lt. Col. Henry (Hank) Detering (USMC-retired), decorated Viet Nam veteran and school administrator, will speak about Freedom Is Not Free at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 17, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Mill at Anselma

On Thursday evening, October 5, The Mill at Anselma will host Morris J. Farnum, coordinator of the Mill's collections team, as the monthly speaker. Morris will update the audience on the progress and discoveries of dedicated team, which has been cataloguing artifacts, photos and other treasures discovered amongst the archives at The Mill at Anselma. Guests will view an exhibit of some of the most interesting artifacts: antique flour bagging tools, a "spaghetti guitar," and old mill advertising, and enjoy a slide show of recently discovered photos from the mid-1980's restoration. In addition, excerpts from various oral histories and historical photos. This event will be held in Bell Hall at Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. It will begin at 6:30 PM, with a wine & cheese reception, followed by the evening's topic at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of the Mill at Anselma attend free of charge. For more information, contact the Mill at Anselma at [610-827-1906](tel:610-827-1906), email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org. The Mill at Anselma is on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs.

And on Saturday, October 14, The Mill at Anselma will hold a Harvest Festival and Milling Demonstration from 10 AM to 4 PM. There also will be historical cooking demonstrations, quilting, cider making, and crafts for children. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children, 4–14 years of age. Mill members admitted free of charge. The mill is open for tours Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. 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.

DHS All-Alumni 5K

The class of '97 presents the inaugural DHS All-Alumni 5K/1 mile Walk /Kids' Run at 9 AM on Saturday, October 14, on the campus of DHS West. Come and see how much your alma mater has changed, while reconnecting with old friends at this family-friendly event! Event details can be found here: <https://runsignup.com/dhsalumni5k> All proceeds from the race will be used for 3 scholarships, to be given out by the DHS Alumni Association to a student in each DASD high school.

Roast Beef Dinner

Marshallton Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have a Roast Beef Dinner (eat-in or take-out) from 4:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, October 21. Menu includes: roast beef, mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and a beverage. To order tickets, send an email to: office@marshalltonchurch.org or call 610-696-5247. If ordered before October 17, tickets are \$13 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 5-12). Tickets bought at the door, are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Mayor's 5K

Downingtown Mayor Josh Maxwell is sponsoring a 5K "Run to End Gender-Based Violence" to be conducted on the Struble Trail, beginning at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 14. Proceeds from the race will be distributed to: the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls, and the Crime Victims Center of Chester County. For more details on the run, see: www.mayors5K.com

Senior Center programs & activities

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center via: www.downingtownseniors.org

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.

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.