

100 YEARS AGO JUNE 1923

KU KLUX AT GLADSTONE *Bernardsville News, June 7, 1923, p 4*

A massive meeting was held at the Reformed Church here on Sunday afternoon, ... and was termed a patriotic meeting. There was special music and special singing. A number of pastors from various neighboring churches were present and made remarks, and then Rev. Dr. Fullerson, of New York, spoke on "Americanism." He was a very forcible speaker and defined a true American and ended by speaking for the Ku Klux Klan. He was heartily applauded. It is estimated that more than five hundred hearers were present. There were at least two hundred automobiles parked in the church yards nearby.

KU KLUX KLAN DEMONSTRATION HELD AT BASKING RIDGE *Bernardsville News, June 28, 1923, p 1* **Said to have initiated 800 in Big Outdoor Gathering -- Attendance Estimated at 10,000 – 12,000.**

Image: www.mrlocalhistory.org%2Fkkk-basking-ridge



Members of the Ku Klux Klan held a gigantic meeting and initiation Saturday evening on the forty-acre field, a part of the 250 acre Whitnall tract opposite Evergreen cemetery, Basking Ridge. Masked and unmasked Klansmen numbering between 10,000 and 12,000

were present and between 800 and 900 candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the Invisible Empire. ... Reporters and spectators were prohibited from viewing the ceremonies and curious persons including a local constable were kept at a safe distance from the center of Klan activities by Klan police... All those who were not able to give the proper password were not permitted to come within hearing distance of the ceremonies... During the evening three crosses were burned... the two larger ones were at least forty feet high and when ignited immediately blazed into perfect crosses discernable for several miles. ...

FOUND ASLEEP ON COUNTER AFTER BURGLARIZING STORE *Bernardsville News, June 7, 1923, p 1*

George Guest Jr, of Mine Brook road, is now the guest of Warden James P. Major, of the Somerset County Jail, Somerville, for young Guest was surprised at 5:30 Sunday morning by Joseph P. Kronenberg, local newsdealer and stationer, who entered his store at that early hour to make arrangements for the delivery of his morning newspapers and found Guest in a crouched position and apparently asleep on the main counter. Without attempting to search or awaken his unexpected visitor, Mr. Kronenberg reached for his phone and called Police Chief Bert Magee. Five minutes later, the officer was in the store and upon casting his eye on the sleeping man, he discovered that an automatic revolver was protruding from his hip pocket. After awakening Guest the officer searched him and found that the pistol, loaded with cartridges, was Mr. Kronenberg's property. Besides the revolver, Guest's pockets and the inside of his shirt netted the officer \$2.03 in change and several packets of cigarettes, five packages of cigarette papers, two briar wood pipes, twelve packages of chewing gum, seven packages of safety razor blades, four pairs of pliers, five novelty pencils, and three loose-leaf pads. A further search disclosed a large cardboard box on the show case ready for hasty removal, which had been packed with fine cigars, cigarettes, and matches. After being questioned as to the reason for his presence in the store, Guest stated that he had been drinking and entered the building to sleep it off....

BERNARDSVILLE FIREMEN READY FOR BIG CARNIVAL *Bernardsville News, June 28, 1923, p 1*

Opens Friday night at Olcott School Grounds – Many Attractions – Baby Parade a Feature

Besides the baby parade which will feature the Bernardsville firemen's carnival which will be held on Olcott School grounds tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday afternoon and evening, ... there will be a registration contest for the women's auxiliaries and fire companies from out of town and the organization which registers the largest attendance during the two days each will be awarded a \$20 gold piece. About 100 babies will take part in the baby parade which will take place Saturday afternoon beginning at 4 o'clock and the baseball contest between the league teams of Bernardsville and Far Hills will be staged on the ball field beginning at 2:30 o'clock. There will be excellent music each day by the Bernards Concert Band and dancing each evening, and supper will be served Saturday night in the Big Tent from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. ... There will be booths for the sale of useful and fancy articles, good things to eat and drink during the two nights and there will be games of all sorts to amuse young and old. ...

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SOMERVILLE RALLIES TO SUPPORT ITS BASEBALL TEAM *Courier-News, June 15, 1923, p 16*

Somerville is going to have a baseball tag day June 23... The tagging will be attended to by the Civic League and Somerville High School students and the proceeds will be turned over to the Somerville representative baseball team, which now has the united support of the Somerset County seat. At a meeting held during the past week the Somerville Baseball Club was officially organized with Dr. E. R. Dillon as president; Daniel Beekman as vice president; Frank Munzing, secretary; Jack Torpey, manager; Charles Aller, assistant manager; and Wallace Conover, publicity manager. This team, as far as its personnel is concerned, is the same as the Somerville A. A., which has an impressive string of victories to its credit so far this season. A membership drive will be conducted and the membership fee, \$10, will entitle the purchaser to admission to Saturday afternoon games in Somerville for the remainder of the season. ... Somerville's rally to the support of its very good baseball team deserves special commendation and speaks volumes for the community spirit and civic pride of that town.

(ed. note: Somerville Athletic Association had their clubhouse on East Main (site of Hamon Building).

CLOSING EXERCISES IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Courier-News, June 21, 1923, p 5

- ◆ Ten pupils were graduated from **Liberty Corner school** at exercises in the school auditorium this Thursday night. ... Graduates to Bernards High are: Marion L. Droge, Carolyn F. Guest, Louise M. Ortman, Edna M. Stout, John Francis Cordine, Ernest S. Croot, Thomas W. Fisher, Michael G. Frolich, Arthur F. von der Linden, and Walter C. Zeidler. ...
- ◆ A prize speaking contest featured the graduating exercises this Thursday night of the **Far Hills school** held in the fire house. Promotion certificates were awarded to these six pupils: Ernest E. W. Anthony, Muriel F. Glass, Frederick F. Grosse, Lloyd A. Meyers, Howard W. Smith, and Lewis J. Wagner. Muriel Glass was awarded the prize in the speaking contest ...
- ◆ Graduating exercises for fourteen pupils of **St. Elizabeth parochial school** were held last night in Parochial hall. ... James McKenna gave the valedictory address. A five-act drama, "The Coming of Geraldine," interspersed with various dances, violin solos and songs were rendered by the pupils.
- ◆ Because of the prevalence of scarlet fever among children in **Basking Ridge**, no public graduating exercises were held, but certificates were awarded this Thursday to [fifteen pupils].



Liberty Corner School

Image: <https://libertycorner.bernardsboe.com/>

THE JULY FOURTH PROGRAM *Courier-News, June 27, 1923, p 9*

Bound Brook. Plans are being completed for the annual celebration of the Washington Camp Ground Association, to be held July Fourth morning at the camp ground. No arrangements are being made for a parade, but the association is planning a patriotic program. The principal speaker will be the Rev. Warren Patten Coon of Newark. Captain Coon was chaplain of the 113th Infantry, 29th Division, A. E. F., an organization with which a number of men from the community served. ... Captain Coon is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and on his paternal side, is descended from an old Somerset County family, many of whom lie in the old Presbyterian Cemetery in Bound Brook. He is also a descendant of the Revolutionary patriot who, in 1777, hauled the Liberty Bell on his farm wagon from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, to Allentown, Pa., where it remained secreted under the floor of Zion Reformed Church for nearly a year to keep it from being captured by the British. ...



(ed. note: The WCGA continues to hold its program each July 4th)