

for the history and culture of Somerset County, NJ

# FLASHBACK

A look back at Somerset County's past

May 2024 ~ Special 2 - page issue

## 100 YEARS AGO MAY 1924

### BASEBALL OPENER SATURDAY Courier News, 15 May 1924, p 15

Somerville. Baseball will come into its own in Somerset County this week, Saturday standing forth as a red-letter day because it will mark the opening of the six-team Industrial Y. M. C. A. loop. In the three towns where games will be played, Somerville, Raritan, and Rocky Hill, special events have been arranged in conjunction with the opening. In **Somerville**, the borough Business Men will line up against the Calco Chemical Company team. ... On East End Oval in **Raritan**, the Raritan Woolen Mill aggregation will open against the Cott-a-lap team, of this place. At **Rocky Hill**, the team of the Somerville Combined Industries will cross bats with the Rocky Hill Terra Cotta Company team.

### SOMERVILLE CIVIC LEAGUE WILL HOLD STREET FAIR Courier News, 22 May 1924, p 9

The Somerville Civic League will hold a street fair in the rear of the Court House, open to the public, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 4, 5, and 6 ... The fair will open with a street parade of 100 costumed children and for their further amusement there will be a pony, a mystery booth and sand boxes for the smaller ones. There will be the sale of various articles, clothing, old and new, fruit, vegetables, cake and candy. ... The Knickerbocker Orchestra will furnish music Wednesday. Thursday, folk dances will be given by children, under the direction of Miss Ada Y. Voorhees, and a big block dance on Grove street will wind up the festivities Friday evening. ...

### Y.M.H.A. CARNIVAL OPENED LAST NIGHT Courier News, 27 May 1924, p 15

The long-planned carnival of the Y.M.H.A. of [Somerville] opened last evening, and in spite of the coolness of the weather was unusually well attended for a "first night." The carnival is being held in the rear of the Elks' and Eagles' club houses on West Main street... Booths, dancing floor and amusements cover the entire area, with spaceways between to accommodate the patrons. Probably never in the history of the borough has so large an outdoor entertainment been undertaken. The booths are of every conceivable nature and one may purchase anything from ice cream cones to house furnishings. ... The fact that the proceeds in part are able to go to the Somerset Hospital has created a widespread interest in the undertaking. ... Excellent music has been provided for dancing and last evening the floor was occupied continuously...

## MAY REOPEN ANCIENT STREET Courier News, 22 May 1924, p 9

Early maps of Somerville show a street running parallel and half way between South street and the New Jersey Central Railroad. A part of the street still remains and extends from Depot Square, between the plant of the New Jersey Tobacco Company and the Hooey store, on out to Union street, although it is now scarcely more than an alley. Tradition says that the street also extended eastward to Bridge street and that an extensive stock yard was once located along it. The eastern section of the street has long since disappeared. There is a possibility ... that the borough may take whatever action is necessary to open up the western section to public traffic and this would aid materially during the period that Division street is under construction. There is an entrance to the little street through another alley just east of the Hooey store, and this, too, has been considered as an entrance street to the station.

Bernardsville News, 1 May 1924, p 1

### LIBERTY THEATRE Bernardsville

Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3 Admission Adults 35c – Children 20c

## "FLAMING YOUTH"

The picture that broke all records in New York last month.

Jazz maniacs, moonlight bathers, neckers and petters in a riot of flaming breath-taking scenes.

A startling expose of ultra-modern society.

Flapperism of today with its jazz, its necker dances, its petting parties, its utter disregard of all conventions.

Story of a wonderful love which grew out of the tinselled superficiality of a society devoted to jazz.



1924 Ford Model T, "Tin Lizzie"

Bernardsville News, 15 May 1924, p 2

# CRANK UP YOUR "LIZZIE"

I love to ride in a "Lizzie," when it rains and sozzles and soaks; for travelling through mud and water and stones, all other cars are jokes.

Just put on your cap and put on your cape and chazoo to the good old boat; step on the gas, no engine you need, for the old concern will float.

Just turn your wheel from gutter to road, and whistle a tune and progress; Kerchook, kerchook, kerzizzle, kerbang, you're off, let "Liz" do the rest.

She'll jump like a goat or float like a boat; she'll sing with a full throat but the family she'll tote.

Trust Lizzie -- She is the narumest, scarumest, tinniest, spinniest, shabbiest, happiest, craziest, laziest, oldest and boldest, youngest, one-lunged contraption this side of the Ark.

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# 100 YEARS AGO MAY 1924

#### BASKING RIDGE DECIDES AGAINST FORMING BOROUGH Bernardsville News, 8 May 1924, p 1

Basking Ridge will remain part of Bernards Township for the voters of that village, Tuesday, rejected the proposal to form a borough by a vote of 217 to 81. Though Bernardsville voted itself into a borough Tuesday, April 29, the sister village failed to follow suit, deciding it would be better at least for a time to remain in the Township with Liberty Corner. With the withdrawal of Bernardsville, it is expected that the seat of the township government will be moved to Basking Ridge soon after May 27.

#### CLOSING EXERCISES AT LOCAL SEWING SCHOOL. Bernardsville News, 1 May 1924, p 1

The closing exercises of the sewing school were held Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in St. Bernard's Parish House, where classes were conducted since last November. The total enrollment has been 150 and 90 of the pupils were present at the closing exercises. ... Handkerchiefs, flowers, candy, and needle book prizes were awarded for best specimens of work done in the class rooms during the season and the prize winners were: **Sewing card work**, first, Rose Treppiccione ... **horse line work**, Anna Santillo; **first year canvas work**, Teresa Yuhas; **second year canvas work**, Anna Bumball; **third year canvas work**, Marion Gaw; **two year work**, Catherine Maddaluna; **dressmaking**, Mary Uyobay; **hat trimming**, Louise Aucone; **cooking**, Elizabeth Linton; **artistic centerpiece**, Evelyn Dobbs; and **table arrangement work**, a prize to each of two teams. / Those who taught the classes during the season were Mrs. John S. Burton, cooking; Miss Lulu Wells, center-piece and table arrangement; Miss Florence Jones, first class in sewing on cards; Mrs. Henry J. Davis, second year canvas work; Miss Helen Blazure, second class in sewing on cards; Mrs. Minne Mannon, dressmaking and Miss Frances Wilcox, hat trimming.

### **NEWS NOTES** Courier News, 16 May 1924, p 24

Somerville. Arthur Brooks and Palmer Bateman of West Cliff Street started for Princeton this morning where they will witness the baseball game and intercollegiate rowing races tomorrow. They are making the trip in Mr. Brooks' canoe via the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Raritan. Michael Berkowitz & Co., Inc., who operate a pajama factory on Fifth street, are closed down for two weeks during inventory.

Bound Brook. Memorial Day will be auspiciously observed in Bound Brook by a celebration in which all the military and patriotic organizations and school children will take part. There will be a street parade in which at least three bands will participate and services will be held in both the Bound Brook and St. Joseph's cemeteries. A squad of riflemen from the Giles-Biondi Post of the American Legion will fire volleys over the graves of soldiers in both cemeteries. A union memorial service is being planned by the churches of the borough.

Somerville. Billboards are to be discontinued here. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, a committee of the Civic League, consisting of Mrs. T. A. Flockhart and Dr. Mary Gaston, [presented] a report on the accomplishment of the women's clubs of the United States in their effort to eliminate advertising signs from along the public highways and scenic places and to enlist the cooperation of local advertisers... In compliance with the request of the [Civic League], the Somerville Chamber of Commerce voted to go on record as being opposed to advertising signs being erected along public highways or where they destroy scenic beauty...

Bernardsville News, 15 May 1924, p 3

# WHY YOU SHOULD SHOP IN SOMERVILLE

The new concrete roads offer you the best and most satisfactory means of transportation

We can offer you a special parking place for your cars when arriving

Excellent garage service in case your cars need attention

Our banking services are equal to the best

Many of our stores have been improved and enlarged and can offer you complete assortments in all kinds of merchandise.

Our cost of business is exceptionally low, therefore, enabling us to sell very reasonable.

**SHOP IN SOMERVILLE** 



Bernardsville News, 15 May 1924, p 3

# Straw Hats

# Crowns of Comfort Brim Full of Style

Straw Hats that will make a good impression – but will not leave any impression – on your head.

The flexible band lets them cling without binding.

You'll find an ex-"straw"-ordinary measure of both comfort and style in the big variety of new ones.

Splits, Sennits, Panamas, Bangkoks, and Leghorns, etc.

\$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 Up

Holcomb & Holstrup, Somerville, New Jersey

Custom Tailors, Clothiers, and Haberdashers