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## 100 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1923

### **SOMERSET COUNTY GOOD ROADS AND ARMISTICE DAY** *Courier-News, Nov 12, 1923, p 1*

**Automobile Procession Three Miles Long Passed Over Newly Constructed Highways; Firemen's Parade; Civic Demonstration** Somerville, Nov. 12 – The Good Roads and Armistice Day Celebration here today attracted a large number of people from all sections of the county. An elaborate program has been planned to mark the completion of some twenty miles of concrete roads intersecting at Somerville; one thoroughfare reaching from Bernardsville to Somerville, and the other from North Branch to Bound Brook. The town of Raritan has just completed one and a half miles of concrete roads and is taking part in the celebration. ... The morning program consisted of a fire drill by the children of the public schools and a gigantic automobile parade at 10:30 o'clock passed over the concrete roadways. ... When the parade passed the court house... there were three hundred decorated cars in line, stretching out over a distance of three miles. ... This afternoon there will be a big civic and firemen's parade and a public meeting in the court house. A block dance will be held tonight. Somerville is in gala attire for the occasion. Every business on the main street is decorated and almost every home in the town is displaying an abundance of flags and bunting.

### **NEWS CLIPS AND LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

**New Traffic Signs in Bound Brook** were put up there yesterday. The revolving "Go and Stop" sign is being placed at the corner of Main and Hamilton street... *[Courier-News, Nov 6, p 9]*

**Whist Party and Dance** will be held by the ladies of the Y.W.H.A. of **Somerville** on the evening of November 15 in its headquarters on the corner of South and Division streets. *[Courier-News, Nov 13, p 9]*

**Fumes Cause Complaint** at a meeting of the **South Bound Brook** Board of Health. Fumes from the Ruberoid Company, which has a large factory in South Bound Brook, were [again] considered after the company installed a smoke consumer which has not proved satisfactory to the citizens of South Bound Brook who complain that the fumes prove to be very offensive during the entire day and night. The Board of Health decided...to take some definite action...very soon. *[Courier-News, Nov 13, p 9]*

**The annual Armistice dance** will be held by the **Martinsville Community Club** on Saturday evening, November the 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at eight-fifteen o'clock. The Paramount Orchestra will furnish all the new music. There will be refreshments and light eats for those who want them. ...*[Courier-News, Nov 8, 1923, p 4.]*

**The Martinsville Fire Company No. 1** [is being] formed for the protection of property in Washington Valley. The birth of this company may be directly attributed to the disastrous conflagration which almost destroyed Martinsville last February. A good deal of money has been subscribed and it is expected that an order will be placed for a chemical engine before many weeks have passed. *[Courier-News, Nov 22, 1923, p 9]*

**The gigantic railroad improvement** being undertaken by the New Jersey Central through **Somerville** is progressing rapidly ... A large elevation south of the present railroad tracks has been made from the Somerset street subway almost to the station at the foot of Division street. In East Somerville ... the roadbed is being widened to provide a four-track system. ... *[Courier-News, Nov 27, p 15]*

### **SEEN THIS WEEK** *Bernardsville News, Nov 22, 1923, p 4*

- ⇒ Young men, old men, and boys, all bearing arms and many with dogs at heel, in automobiles and on foot, all with one objective – the bagging of Brer Rabbit and the Cock Pheasant.
- ⇒ Two girls in "knickers." Both were bow-legged.
- ⇒ Boy in a hurry to enter a local news store shoves both hands through glass panel instead of using the door knob.
- ⇒ Delivery car of local grocer stalled near Larger Crossroads yesterday. Driver loosens all wires, digs in with monkey wrench and screw driver in an endeavor to "make 'er go." No response. Phones boss for help. Garage man sent to make repairs to find battery missing and driver ignorant where or when it had gone.
- ⇒ Dead hen on one of our village streets – automobile victim.