

FLASHBACK 1921 100 years ago

More Land Given for Park Purpose

Somerset Democrat, April 1, 1921, page 1

At a meeting of the Somerville Borough Council held Monday evening....it was announced that Mrs. Henry P. Vander Veer had donated to the borough a strip of land along Peters Brook from East Main street to the Central Railroad tracks. The strip has a frontage of 290 feet on East Main street, and will be converted into a public park to be known as Vander Veer Park in memory of the donor's husband, the late Henry P. Vander Veer. As a condition of the gift it is understood that the borough will fill in the remainder of the meadow extending westward to the Sisser storage warehouse on Main Street.

The gift of the Vander Veer tract gives the borough control of the brookside for almost its entire extent..... A resolution has been passed by council expressing appreciation of the gift and it is probable that the development of the tract will be taken up at an early date by various civic organizations in the borough.

(Editor's note: Today this tract off East Main Street and Veterans Memorial Drive in Somerville is part of the Peters Brook Greenway. The Engine Co. 1 Firehouse sits on the corner. Behind this were two tennis courts. One was redesigned in the 1980s as a skateboard park, but as time and fads march on, has now become a pickleball court.)

Current Happenings at Local Range!

Somerset Democrat, April 8, 1921, page 5

- The Tiger A. C. baseball team is desirous of booking games with teams averaging 16 years or more. Phone or write Manager C. Hill, 183 E. High street. Phone 228-W.
- John H. Beekman, of West End avenue, a student at Rutgers Prep., has been elected captain of the baseball team there for the coming season. When a student at Somerville high he played on the team there.
- On request of Councilman Durling, chairman of the Trolley Committee of the Borough Council, the trolley now makes an extra stop in Somerville on the trip west. This stop is at the corner of Main and Davenport streets, and is greatly appreciated by the patrons.

Spring 1921 is in the Air

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