

100 YEARS AGO APRIL 1923

MARTINSVILLE HAS PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY'S HISTORY. *Bernardsville News, April 5, 1923, p 1* **Washington encamped there during skirmish with the British. Some old landmarks still standing.**

That part of the old historic village of Martinsville, which was destroyed by fire Wednesday of last week, will be re-built, and from the debris, will arise finer, better and more beautiful dwellings than before the fire.

One of the prides of the quaint old village which was saved was the old Community House, the Martinsville Country Club which was organized by Harvey and Stephen O'Higgins. ... The former has written a little booklet on the history of the village and two plays which have been presented by the townspeople.

The town which was settled by the Dutch in the seventeenth century, played an important part in the Revolution and the ancestors of the people living there today fought with Washington against the hated Red-coats.

On Chimney Rock, nearby, Washington camped and held at bay the British in Bound Brook four miles away. On the farm of Mrs. George B. Cloke still can be seen one of Washington's outposts, earth breast-works through a gap in which once glared the mouth of a cannon. ...

For the benefit of those made homeless by the fire, members of the Martinsville Country Club will give a masquerade ball Saturday night.

FIERY CROSSES BURNED IN NEIGHBORING VILLAGES. *Bernardsville News, April 12, 1923, p 1* **Ridge and Far Hills Visited by Display of Ku Klux Klan Flaming Crosses.**

Three visits to this neighborhood within forty-eight hours was the record set last week-end by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Last Thursday night at 9 o'clock, Bernardsville was treated to the flare of a fiery cross on the hill leading from Somerset avenue; Friday night, a fiery cross burned in the field at Basking Ridge, owned by M. F. Ellis and Saturday evening a similar emblem burned at Far Hills on the Peapack road. Not only was the burning of the cross at the Ridge observed at a dance in progress at the A.O.U.W. hall at the time, but three women...guests...claimed they actually saw three Klansmen peering through a window. ... one of the women who was sitting near the window, turned and gazed squarely into the masked face of the Klansman. ... All that was visible ... was the figure of the person from the shoulders up, the head being completely covered with a white hood in which were holes cut for the eyes and mouth ... Perceiving that he had been observed ... [he] lowered himself to the ground and disappeared.

An alarm was given and those in attendance at the dance rushed out of the hall in search of the unknown visitor, but no trace of him could be found. It was then that the blazing cross was seen. It stood on a slight mound about a quarter of a mile away. An examination of the framework of the cross the next day showed that it was of wood, unlike that at Bernardsville. Cotton rags and oily waste comprised the inflammable material. ... The fiery cross which burned at Far Hills Saturday night was ignited on the highway just above Schley's Hall, directly in front of the Catholic rectory. This was followed by the burning of a second cross Monday night so close to the church that its light was reflected on the church. ...The cross of Monday night stood on the border of the property of the Lackawanna Railroad and that of W. G. Ladd. ...

LOCAL A-T CLINIC HAD 34 CASES *Courier-News, April 19, 1923, p 9*

The clinic conducted by the Bound Brook Red Cross yesterday made examinations in 34 cases of tuberculosis. Some of these were from Bound Brook, but by far the greater number came from Manville, where conditions against combatting the dread disease are said to be of the worst. The clinic was held in the Red Cross rooms at the First National Bank building and was conducted by Dr. Glasser. He was assisted in his work by Dr. Francis and others. One family produced three cases, the father, mother, and a child. Application will be made for admission of the parents into the New Jersey Sanatorium at Glen Gardner, while the child will be placed in the Tuberculosis Preventorium at Farmingdale. The work being done by the Red Cross clinic is to be highly commended. No one likes to hear of the prevalence in thickly settled communities of tuberculosis, but if it is undiscovered and the spread not prevented, conditions will grow constantly worse.

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New Jersey Sanatorium for Tuberculous Diseases, Glen Gardner, N. J. Pub. by E. W. Rush.
Front View, showing the West Ward, Administration Building and East Ward.

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AMERICANIZATION MEETING ON SUNDAY *Courier-News, April 27, 1923, P 29*

Bound Brook. The largest Americanization meeting ever held in this vicinity will be held Sunday afternoon in the Palace Theatre under the auspices of the Somerset County Y.M.C.A. Thirty-nine persons, residents of Bound Brook, have been admitted during the past year. County Clerk, F. N. Voorhees will present these with citizenship papers at the meeting Sunday afternoon and Mayor Harvey S. Smalley and members of council will make appropriate addresses of welcome. Nearly all of these men have secured their papers through the help of the Y.M.C.A. in the night schools conducted by them in the La Monte school, the Polish school, and the Ruberoid school. ... Mrs. George W. Yeandle, a well-known welfare worker and popular among the new citizens, will present each with an American flag. ...

TALK ABOUT THE TROLLEY *Courier-News, April 10, 1923, p 11*

Advertisement. The Way is Open! Spring is here! And there's no reason why, whether we own automobiles or not, we shouldn't have what we want. Take a map of that part of New Jersey stretching from New York to Philadelphia. Note the railway lines marked on it. They radiate from every city; they stretch across the open spaces; they follow the windings of many of our justly celebrated views; they connect the big centres of population with the suburbs and the outlying communities; they afford a pathway to the country. There is no better way to see the attractions of suburban and rural New Jersey, through a great part of its territory, than by trips on Public Service cars. It's an economical way; it's an attractive way; it's a comfortable way, and, above all, it's a safe way.

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SOMERVILLE WILL USE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME *Courier-News, April 28, 1923, P 9*

According to a proclamation issued this week by Mayor Thomas A. Flockhart, Somerville, along with many other communities in the vicinity, will observe daylight saving, commencing tomorrow, and watches will be changed tonight. The mayor's proclamation follows:

"The Central Railroad of New Jersey will operate on a changed schedule for the summer, and New York City and Philadelphia, and towns in between Somerville and New York on the Central Railroad have adopted daylight saving time for the same period. In view of this it would seem necessary for Somerville during the period to use daylight saving time. I therefore proclaim that beginning with April 29 at 2 a.m., we will use Daylight Saving Time."

Image: <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/stories/468-westclox-baby-ben-alarm-clocks-1923--1>



CROSS WALKS HAVE BEEN PAINTED *Courier-News, April 10, 1923, p 11*

Somerville. This morning when residents of the borough awoke and went to their business or to catch a train, they found that the surface of the Main street had been painted during the night by the Street Department. It had been painted in white to indicate to pedestrians where they might cross the street or catch a trolley car.

... Since the construction of a concrete surface for the principal business street of the borough, the old flag crossings have been abolished and the crossings and safety zones are now indicated by white marks painted upon the surface of the street. ...

RARITAN NEWS NOTES *Courier-News, April 28, 1923, P 9*

--A horse belonging to New Brunswick parties became frightened at a trolley car Tuesday, ran up onto the sidewalk, and tore a number of pickets from a fence in front of the Klawe property.

--P. Finley Wyckoff, president of the Board of Commissioners of Raritan, issued a proclamation declaring daylight saving effective here after April 29.

--Gypsy moth men have been engaged this week in placing burlap and tar about the trunks of trees in the vicinity.

BROADCAST BILL'S RADIO PLAYS by William E. Douglass *Courier-News, April 7, 1921, p 6*

Like the birds up in the air / Some day we'll be flying there / And we won't need any horses on the ground. / For the good old family surrey / Will be fixed so we can hurry / With an engine which will make the wheels go round./ Though our telephone is new / What I say is coming true / And you hadn't better laugh in any case. / Now to talk we string up wires / Which the telephone requires / But it won't be long till we can talk through space.

In the evening as I listen to the radio it seems, / though my youthful days are over, I am still chuck full of dreams. / Like as not some bright young feller pretty soon will find a way, / so that we can see by Radio just like we hear today. / Then when they send out a prize fight we can watch it blow by blow, / and we won't need anybody to describe that kind of show. / And if some sweet-voiced singer has a face all out of joint, / why, we'll just tune in some other, Say, Jim, move that dial one point. / Say, but listen folks, I'll tell you what the biggest hit will be / if they can ever get this radio so we can hear an' see, / maybe they'll send out the Collies like's down in New York this spring, / will I tune 'em in and watch? -- I'll tell the world, I will -- Gash Ding. *Copyright 1923, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co.*

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