

100 YEARS AGO APRIL 1924

SCHOOL CONTRACT WAS AWARDED *Courier-News, 24 April 1924, p 5*

At a special meeting of the Bridgewater Township Board of Education, held in [Raritan] Tuesday evening, the contract for the construction of an additional **one-room school at Green Knoll** was awarded to Russell Cray, of Neshanic, at his bid of \$5,825. ... The contract for plumbing was awarded to John Zangrando, of Raritan, at his bid of \$612. / The population of the Green Knoll vicinity has increased rapidly during the last few months, many families moving to this section from the South and other points. In some sections the land along the new concrete road is building up rapidly. It was to care for this increase that the additional school was found necessary.

PETERS BROOK APPEARANCE HAS BEEN CHANGED *Courier-News, 24 April 1924, p 5*

Any resident of Somerville who has been out of town for a period of a year or more and who returned from New York by train, would fail absolutely to recognize that part of the borough in the vicinity of the Peter's Brook culvert. In the first place, there isn't a culvert any more, but a temporary bridge to the north of the old site, erected on piles. To the south of the present right of way of the railroad is a high embankment of earth, extending from Loeser avenue to Hamilton street. But the most noticeable change of all is the changed course of Peter's Brook as it approaches the bridge at right angles. To affect the change, tons and tons of earth were excavated and carried on temporary tracks to whatever section of the development called for. A small contracting engine steams up and down the tracks pushing and pulling a number of little cars.... [ed. note: the embankment described still exists in Somerville and the Peter's Brook Greenway Trail passes underneath it. The raised embankment allowed the Central New Jersey railroad to pass over Loeser, Hamilton, and Southside streets in Somerville. Before it was constructed, the railroad was at street grade.]

BERNARDSVILLE MAN WHO KILLED WIFE AND ALLEGED LOVER ADJUDGED NOT GUILTY *Courier-News, 17 April 1924, p 1.*

Somerville. James D'Agostina, indicted for the murder of his wife and Joseph Treppicione, her alleged lover, when he found them together in his home on October 25 of last year, was acquitted yesterday by a jury of killing his wife, after a trial lasting three days. He was represented by Clarence E. Case. The case of the state was handled by A. M. Beekman, County Prosecutor. The unwritten law played a large part in the verdict. / D'Agostina's trial had attracted widespread attention. The accused man was a highly respected resident of Bernardsville, where the double murder occurred. He is the father of eight children ... two daughters...being witnesses in his defense. Ever since his arrest the morning of the murder, he has been an ideal inmate of the Somerset County jail. ... As soon as the verdict was returned the court room was cleared and the friends of D'Agostina gathered outside of the building to welcome him. ...

KLANSMEN TAKE ACTIVE PART AT OPEN AIR EASTER SERVICE *Bernardsville News, 24 April 1924, p 1*

Rev. Carl C. E. Mellberg, pastor of Bishop Janes' Methodist Episcopal Church addressed members of the Ku Klux Klan and other persons numbering about 2500, at an open air service last Sunday morning at 5 o'clock in the Whitnall field, opposite Evergreen Cemetery, Basking Ridge. ... Twenty-three fiery crosses, ... set up in a circle around the field, blazed up.... Though the meeting was open to all and the audience comprised men, women and children of all ages and faiths, Klansmen guarded the field and three officers from the police department were also on duty. Besides those from nearby villages, cars came to the meeting from Morristown, Somerville, Plainfield, New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, and New York. ...

FIRE LEVELS HOME OF REEVE SCHLEY IN FAR HILLS

Bernardsville News, 3 April 1924, p 1

The second large fire in the Somerset Hills Colony within a year occurred at Far Hills late Tuesday afternoon (*April 1*) and destroyed the twenty-eight room residence of Reeve Schley, New York banker and Mayor of the borough of Far Hills. The mansion, a 50x200 foot structure ... was of brick construction with shingle roof. ... all that remains standing are a few posts, chimneys and outside walls, which are of brick and tile. ... The fire broke out when the snow storm was at its height and the flames in their setting of snow and gathering night made a spectacular picture. The house, one of the showplaces of the mountain colony, was situated in Liberty Corner road on a wooded hill on the late Grant B. Schley estate. ... The Far Hills firemen, after a strenuous pull through the snow ... quickly arrived on the scene but efforts to confine the fire to the basement were futile.

NEWS NOTES *Courier-News, 25 April 1924, p 11*

- ⇒ Somerville. **AUTOMOBILISTS BEWARE:** Officer Thomas Pascale has taken the police department motorcycle out of storage and is again patrolling the streets on the lookout for fast, and reckless and other kinds of drivers. "Tom" has a big heart but when some autoist tries to use Main street for a speedway and is arrested he will have only himself to blame, although he will probably swear by his ancestors that he "was only going 12 miles an hour." "Tom" says that the motorcycle is not in particularly good shape now as the fastest it can do is 70 miles an hour. But after the carbon is removed and a few nuts tightened any automobile driver doing less than 90 [miles] an hour will be caught and summoned before the judge.
- ⇒ Mrs. Margaret Killiger, of Raritan, has the honor of being the **FIRST WOMAN IN SOMERSET COUNTY TO RECEIVE A REGULAR APPOINTMENT AS AN ELECTION OFFICER.** Mrs. Killiger was very much on the job Tuesday at her place at the polling place of the Fourth Bridgewater Township District.



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Bernardsville News, 10 April 1924