

122 YEARS AGO APRIL 1903

CULPRITS BREAK INTO SCHOOLHOUSE *Bernardsville News, 10 April 1903, p. 1*

Bernardsville. Unknown persons broke into the schoolhouse at Mine Mount last Sunday afternoon between two and five o'clock, and raised havoc generally. Ink bottles were thrown and broken upon the stove, floor and desks, their contents staining everything with which they came in contact, and the contents of the coal scuttle were deposited upon the teacher's desk. Not satisfied with what had already been done, the culprits subjected the Bible to severe mutilation, driving sharp sticks into and through it. / When Miss Demarest, the teacher, and a number of pupils attempted to enter the building on Monday morning, they found that the lock on the door had been broken and the door barred on the inside in such a manner as to make it impossible to gain entrance through it. Miss Demarest thereupon had one of the scholars break a pane of glass in the window and get inside. Upon discovering what had taken place, Miss Demarest dismissed the scholars for the day and came to Bernardsville and reported the affair to J. E. Ballentine, district clerk of the Board of Education. Mr. Ballentine ... offers a reward for the arrest and conviction of the offenders.

TRAIN KILLS HORSE AT FAR HILLS *Bernardsville News, 17 April 1903, p. 1*

A horse belonging to James Pope, of Liberty Corner, was struck and killed by the morning mail train at Far Hills crossing last Friday. A young daughter of Mr. Pope, with a girl companion, was driving the horse and they were both thrown out of the vehicle, but were uninjured save a few bruises and scratches. An engine was switching near the station at the time and the children did not hear the approaching train. Their escape from instant death was miraculous. *Image: 1909 photo of Far Hills train station, built in 1890.* https://somersethillshistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Far-Hills-Station_THSSH_C-scaled.jpg



100 YEARS AGO APRIL 1925

JERSEY CENTRAL REMOVES TERMINAL FROM SOMERVILLE TO RARITAN

Courier-News, 27 Apr 1925, p 1

With the transfer of the suburban terminal from Somerville to Raritan ... the operations of through trains from New York to Flemington, and from Flemington to New York, is discontinued. Hereafter, passengers on the South Branch Railroad will transfer to main lines at Somerville and a branch train will be operated between Somerville and Flemington... / Another step in the big improvement being made through Somerville and Raritan by the railroad company becomes effective today and the tower at South Bridge street in the former place is discontinued, a new tower at Raritan taking its place. / In the meantime, the entire extent of the railroad line from East Somerville to a point beyond Raritan is a scene of bustling activity and constructing trains and gangs may be seen at almost any point rushing the work of elevating the tracks, increasing the trackage, and abolishing grade crossings. / Raritan, up until a week ago with eight trains stopping at the local station in both directions, now has 26.

SUBURBAN TERRITORY IS BUILDING FAST *Courier-News, 28 Apr 1925, p 9*

That section of Bridgewater township just west of the borough limits of Bound Brook, which is ultimately destined to become a part of the greater borough, is building up rapidly. Beginning with the Middlebrook section and extending westward as far as the Manville road and beyond*, hundreds of homes have appeared during the last few years. Construction work at this time is particularly noticeable, and scarcely a day passes without a new foundation being laid out. ... The houses for the most part are of the bungalow type, although some are more pretentious. ... several used in part as stores or gasoline stations. Many private garages are also being built, while along the State Highway several service stations have made their appearance. Within a very few years, should the present rate of building continue, the space of land between Bound Brook and Somerville will be a solid community of homes. (*a.k.a. Finderne)

50 YEARS AGO APRIL 1975

SOMERSET COUNTY COLLEGE PUTS ITSELF ON DISPLAY *Bernardsville News, 3 April 1975, p. 5*

Branchburg. Somerset County College will be on display during a week-long series of events designated as Somerset County College Week, from Sunday, April 13 through Saturday, April 19. Kick-off event of the week will be a reception for community leaders ... Sunday, April 13. Monday evening, April 14 at 8 p.m. there will be a color-slide presentation and lecture of the archeology of the Holy Land by Sidney Kellner, New Jersey Director of the American Jewish Committee. The major event for Tuesday, April 15 at 8 p.m. will be a free Dixieland jazz performance and lecture of the evolution on jazz in America. Wednesday, April 16 there will be two showings of Federico Fellini's film, "Juliet of the Spirits." Preceding the showing, Thomas Valasek of the college's English faculty will discuss the artistic fine points of the film. Thursday, April 17 ... several hundred high school students from throughout Somerset County will be participating in the second annual College for a Day event at Somerset. Friday, April 18, there will be a fashion show for senior citizens... The Open House on Saturday, April 19 ... there will be a tour of the buildings and campus and a slide film presentation telling the story of the college. *Note: Somerset County Community College opened in 1968 and was renamed Raritan Valley Community College in 1987 when it became the county college for Hunterdon County as well.* *Image: https://www.raritanval.edu/50-years*

