

FLASHBACK to AUGUST 1921 100 YEARS AGO

Big “Round Up” of Liquor Dealers

Somerset Democrat, August 12, 1921, page 1

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, Prosecutor Beekman’s office conducted a series of liquor raids throughout the county which resulted in numerous arrests and the seizure of large quantities of material evidence. Altogether some 30 arrests were made. Those apprehended were immediately arraigned before Judge Frank L. Cleary for pleading.

The liquor which was seized was brought to the jail in trucks and unloaded on the west side, where it attracted much attention and almost broke up business in the court house. During the first day, the collection, consisting of case goods, barrels and mash, gin, brandy, whiskey, vermouth, Jamaica ginger and everything, was allowed to remain outside under guard, and hundreds of people visited the scene, the greater number gazing upon the collection jealously. Later in the day it was safely locked up in the jail to await the arrival of the second collection. In addition to some case goods of questionable quality, this collection contained a number of stills of various kinds, not all made under a patent right.

The penalty for violation of the Van Ness Act is \$500 fine or six months in the county jail, or both.

Trials Attract Large Court Attendance

Somerset Democrat, August 19, 1921, page 1

The trial of five liquor cases under the Van Ness Act opened before Judge Frank Cleary, Wednesday morning and before the day was over five cases had been disposed of to the sorrow of the defendant parties. The trials attracted many to the court room, particularly friends of the accused, and the auditorium was filled to its capacity. The cases proved to be particularly interesting and were the **first to be staged in Somerset county without juries since its organization before the days of the Revolutionary War.** Each case as it was called for trial, produced its quantity of bottled evidence, and there was a great array of old fashioned bar bottles, together with numerous stills, tin cans and jugs enough to stock a small sized hardware store; the cases tried found their setting in Raritan, Somerville, Bound Brook, and South Bound Brook.

Weekly Dances Open to Public

Somerset Democrat, Aug 26, 1921, page 1

The Martinsville Country Club is proud of the success attained in the weekly dances being given every Saturday evening in the new club building. A great deal of time and effort is devoted to the preparation for the event and every safeguard is taken to keep the dances above criticism. These weekly events have attracted a fine attendance of people from the Washington Valley, Bound Brook, Plainfield, and Somerville.

The Martinsville Country Club is a community association designed to promote the happiness and welfare of the people living in the district surrounding and including Washington Valley. The public is invited to attend the functions given at the club anytime. The dance to be given tomorrow evening will be known as the “Rainbow Dance.” The rooms of the club will be decorated with the rainbow as a motif. Mrs. Harry English will be the hostess for the evening.

“The Song of the Mosquito”

172 YEARS AGO Messenger, 1849

In summer night I take my flight
To where the maidens repose;
And when they are sleeping sweet and
sound, / I bite them on the nose;
The warm red blood that tints their
cheeks, / To me is precious dear,
For ‘tis my delight to buzz and bite
In the season of the year.
When I get my fill, I wipe my bill
And sound my tiny horn;
And off I fly to the mountain high,
Ere breaks the golden morn;
But at eve I sally forth again
To tickle the sleeper’s ear;
For ‘tis my delight to buzz and bite
In the season of the year.

