

# FLASHBACK

# A look back at Somerset County's past

August 2025

## AUGUST 1915 110 YEARS AGO

#### BASKING RIDGE FIRE COMPANY CARNIVAL Somerset Hills Historical Society



Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 hosted its annual carnival Aug. 6-7, 1915 and used a real picture postcard to advertise the event. The Moline fire engine, shown here in front of the old Maple Avenue school (now Bernards Township Library), was purchased in 1911.

https://somersethillshistoricalsociety.org/2024/07/22/basking-ridge-fire-carnival-moline/

# AUGUST 1925 100 YEARS AGO

# CARNIVAL DAYS AT RIDGE Bernardsville News, 6 August 1925, page 1

All is in readiness for the sixteenth annual carnival of the Basking Ridge Fire Company which opens tomorrow on the grounds adjoining the public school at the Ridge. All the booths are erected, wired, and ready to turn on the lights... Their merry-go-round, which is the only one for some miles around, has been placed, the organ is in tune, and the "kids" are hoarding their pennies to see who will have the most rides. One little fellow, a true optimist, has but one penny today toward the necessary five cents for a ride on the prancing steed he has selected, but without doubt he will be taken care of even if he fails to secure the other four cents. ... Dancing to an excellent orchestra will provide amusement and entertainment for the young folk and motion pictures will be another feature. Each evening at five o'clock the doors of the dining room will be thrown open for those who will enjoy a real old fashioned chicken supper with all the fixins'. ... The firemen are especially anxious to make this year's carnival a financial success as they are in debt \$2,500 for their new La France pumper purchased some time ago. They have been more or less disappointed in cash donations received this year ... but hope to make up the deficiency ... at the carnival grounds. With a building worth some thousands and about \$14,000 worth of apparatus, kept in readiness to serve the community at a moment's notice through their own efforts, the firemen feel they are asking but a fair return in urging the cooperation of all at this time.

#### WILL DEDICATE NEW HOSPITAL Courier-News, 28 August 1925, page 15

The new Somerset Hospital building will be dedicated on Sunday, August 30, at 2:30 o'clock. An opportunity will then be given the public to view the inside of the building and see how completely and homelike it has been furnished. Visitors will also be admitted today and tomorrow from two to five o'clock in the afternoon, and from seven to nine o'clock in the evening, also Sunday afternoon from the closing of the dedication exercises to five o'clock. The visitors will be allowed to pass through the long corridors and look in all the rooms, but not allowed to enter the rooms on account of their having been made ready to receive patients. All doors will be open so that a good view can be had of the furnishings and equipment. The board of trustees have had one idea from the planning of the building to the furnishing of the same, and that was to make everything look as homelike as possible to patients. ... The new hospital will be opened for the reception of patients September 1.

### FIRST MARRIAGE IN SOMERSET COUNTY COURT HOUSE Courier-News, 28 August 1925, page 15

Sophie Andrzezewski and Jacob Rynkivicki, both of Manville, were married Wednesday afternoon [August26] in the Freeholders room at the Court House by Recorder H. E. Durham, the witnesses proper being Chester Trojanowski, brother of the bride, and Henry Niederlitz, of Somerville. The young couple are very popular in their home town, and invitations were extended to all the county officers and employees present in the Court House to witness the event, the first marriage performed in the Court House. The groom kissed the bride at the conclusion of the ceremony, as did many county officials. The birthplace of both the contracting parties was Warsaw, Poland.