

100 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1924

“TOMMY” PLAYS A JOKE ON HIS NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR *Bernardsville News, January 3, 1924, p 1*

Stuffs Empty Rabbit Skin and Places It In Bushes for Arthur to Shoot At.

Bernardsville. G. Thomas Gianquitti, of Anderson road, senior partner of the Claremont road hardware firm of Gianquitti & Corrado, recently made a meal of a tame jack rabbit which he raised, and used the skin to play a practical joke on one of his neighbors. ... [He] thought it would be great fun to stuff the skin of the rabbit and place it in the bushes near his store building where it could easily be seen by Arthur Jefferson, one of the occupants, who besides being an expert harness maker is also a crack shot with his gun or rifle, for Arthur trained for shooting during the late war when he saw service. After the rabbit skin was placed, Mr. Gianquitti called Mr. Jefferson and pointed out the same to him. ... Mr. Gianquitti inquired whether or not the object they saw ... was not game of the highest quality and for which the season was open. “By gosh, it’s a rabbit all right” Mr. Jefferson retorted, and going to his shop he seized his gun, returned ..., and fired thrice. ... “By gosh, you got him all right,” Mr. Gianquitti exclaimed, and Jefferson was delighted ... But his smile and his glee were soon turned to gloom and surprise, for Mr. Gianquitti’s son Anthony went to pick up the supposed rabbit and brought back to Mr. Jefferson a stuffed skin. Then the fun began.

LOCAL BUREAU ISSUES 1,500 LICENSES

Bernardsville News, January 3, 1924, p 1 Robert B. Garrabrant, in charge of the newly established motor vehicle registration agency ... in Bernardsville has issued approximately 1,500 sets of 1924 auto license plates and about the same number of drivers’ licenses, most of them within the last two weeks. During the last few days of the old year crowds lined up inside and outside the office necessitating the employment of five clerks to handle the rush of business which came from communities far removed as well as nearer by.



SOMERVILLE TRAFFIC SIGNALS NOW IN POSITION

Courier-News, 24 January 1924, p 9. The first of the new traffic signals to help safeguard Somerville’s dangerous corners, has been installed at the corner of East Main street and North Gaston avenue by Cramer Fisher, superintendent of Maintenance. The signal is the design of Chief Bellis and Superintendent Fisher. The base is three feet high and two and a half feet in diameter. It is made of concrete and steel, and very heavy. In the center of the base stands the shell of a 12-inch projectile, such as were used by the Army during the World War. Around the bottom of the projectile are four electric signs pointing the way to New York and to Easton. From the top of the projectile there is an upright surmounted by a white lantern having a red bull’s-eye in each of the four sides. Below the lights are two red disks bearing the caption “Keep to the Right” ... The light in the lantern is an electric flasher, and will light 30 times a minute. The power comes from a pole on the corner and will be turned out during the day.

SOMERSET CORN EXHIBITERS WIN PRIZES *Bernardsville News, 24 January 1924, p 1*

Somerset County, as usual, made a great showing with her splendid corn exhibit at Trenton last week. One had but to glance at her splendid entries of perfect ears to realize that this is one of the leading corn-growing counties in the state. ... There was a fluttering array of bright ribbons brought back, among them the following: J. V. D. Bergen, of Belle Meade, **Grand Championship of the State in Yellow Dent corn class**; Hoffman Brothers, Somerville, first, Yellow Dent class; J.V.N. Strykre, Millstone, fourth, Yellow Dent class; Hoffman Brothers, Somerville, first White Cap class North Jersey and fourth in class for White Cap Yellow Dent, best single ear Flint, and also best single ear White Dent for North Jersey.

RARITAN FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IS BEING CHANGED *Courier-News, 24 January 1924, p 9*

Four new fire alarm boxes have been placed on Somerset street, Raritan, replacing the old ones, and the numbers changed.... giving Raritan ten stations from which to turn in an alarm.

EX-SERVICE MEN OF FOREIGN BIRTH TO BECOME CITIZENS. *Courier-News, 12 January 1924, p 11*

Somerville. All ex-servicemen of foreign birth who wish to obtain their citizenship papers can do so up to February 24, 1924 at any naturalization court held in the United States. ...After that date, the ex-soldier must take out his first papers as do all other petitioners.

DISORDERLY HOUSE IS RAIDED IN SOMERVILLE *Courier-News, 21 January 1924, p 11*

County detective George C. Totten, accompanied by Sheriff Jose Hanlon, yesterday raided a disorderly house in Somerville and arrested Dominick Soldano and John Domano. In the house they found one small still. The house was located on Franklin street at the foot of Warren. The two men are charged with running a disorderly house wherein drinking, gambling, and other indoor sports is permitted.