

150 YEARS AGO JULY 1872

From the Somerset Unionist, third and fourth weeks of July 1872

ISLAND FARM SOLD – The Easton and Amboy R. R. Company have purchased the “Island Farm” between Bound Brook and Somerville, across which their line will run, for \$32,000. It comprises 140 acres and the price is the same that was paid for it two years ago. (*Ed. note: Island Farm is one of the original lots laid out by the NJ Proprietors and eventually was part of the VAN HORN tract. It is likely the area where the train tracks run behind the ball park. The property belonged to Cornelius Van Horn in 1759.*)

THE NATIONAL AIR LINE RAILWAY PEOPLE have commenced operations in this county – A number of shanties for workmen have been erected during the last week on the farm of P. S. Bergen of Roycefield, and the work of grading has begun on the same property. This is one of the farms recently bought by the company. Sections of the road have been put under contract, and a gentleman at Raritan has secured three miles at \$28,000 per mile. About 20 men only are employed at present, but the number it is expected will soon be largely increased. (*note: An air-line railroad was relatively straight with a direct and streamlined route*)

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL – The closing exercises for this institution were held on Friday, the 19th inst., under the direction of its principal, H. P. Davidson. The forenoon was occupied with the recitations of the several classes in each department, in the several branches which they had pursued during the term. As the scholars had not been crammed for the occasion, the result was an exhibition of their actual attainments, both creditable and satisfactory. In the afternoon, the pupils of the senior department were examined in the Latin language and in English grammar. Maps of South America drawn in pencil were passed around among the visitors, which showed accuracy in geography... Several songs were sung by the girls accompanied by the melodeon which evinced proficiency in this delightful accomplishment. Prizes were awarded for perfect examination in spelling to the following: Misses Lizzie Van Derbeek, Annie Van Derbeek, Emma Garretson, Carrie Thompson, Bella Barcalow, Laura Tunison and Eliza Vroom. A special premium was bestowed to Lizzie Van Derbeek for perfect attendance for a year. The whole school united in a parting hymn, which brought tears to many eyes. Rev. J. F. Mesick, D.D. delivered a brief address and offered the closing prayer.

100 YEARS AGO JULY 1922

JITNEY BUS FIGHT IS ON *Unionist Gazette 7-6-1922 p 1*

Prominent Lawyers attack new law regulating buses to back streets. The adoption of the auto bus ordinance adopted by the Borough Council ... on Monday night prohibiting buses from running on Main and Somerset streets in competition with the trolley and increasing the license fee more than two hundred percent for the privilege of running on a back-street route ... precipitated a fight which promises to be settled in the Chancery Court as it involves the question as to whether the council in its efforts to protect the Public Service Corporation has not exceeded its power. ... John A. Frech and William V Steele, counsel, contended that the new ordinance was against public policy ... and in favor of a corporation and against the people. The lawyers further held that ... there was nothing in the borough act which empowered it to regulate the running of buses over back streets and increase license fees to a prohibitive figure with the object of stifling competition with the trolley railway. ...



HORSE ON VACATION DROPS DEAD – Replaced by the First Parcel Post Motor Truck *Unionist Gazette 7-6-1922 p 2*

The faithful horse which had pulled parcels post delivery wagon about town ever since the service was first established here about 10 years ago, was so overcome by the thought of a long vacation that it laid down and died. This horse belonged to N. O. Dunster, who hired it to the post office for the work it did, and he having relinquished the livery business decided to take the horse out of the service and give it a long rest. With this idea in view the horse's shoes were pulled and the animal was being taken up to the Bradley farm to be turned out to pasture, when at the corner of Main street and Mountain avenue, it suddenly became ill. It reeled, staggered around a few times and fell over in the street dead. The faithful old horse was taken out of the service on Thursday. On Friday Mr. Dunster sent another horse to do the work, and on Saturday a new motor truck was used for the first to make the deliveries. This truck will be utilized hereafter, it having been decided that it would be quicker and better to motorize the parcel post service.

TO BUILD NEW HOSPITAL *Unionist Gazette, July 20, 1922, p 1*

Board of Trustees appoints committee to raise \$150,000 for new Structure. At the regular monthly meeting Friday evening of the Board of Trustees of Somerset Hospital, president Chas. C. Kenyon, presiding, the board decided that it was absolutely necessary to build a new hospital in order to properly take care of those unfortunates who need medical and surgical care and attention. It is deemed that the sum of \$150,000 will be necessary to construct such a building and equip it, and an effort will be started at once to secure this sum of money.

COTT-A-LAP NIGHT *Unionist Gazette, July 20, 1922, p 1*

What promises to be the biggest sing yet for Somerville will be the one tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. The employees of the Cott-a-Lap Company, one of Somerville's booming industries, will grace the Court House steps, together with their families. Superintendent Thos. Davis has announced that any of the single men may bring their sweethearts and the same holds true with the unmarried girls. People of Somerville, who want to hear a singing industrial concern, just be there tomorrow.