

June 2025

JUNE 1905 120 YEARS AGO

RECKLESS AUTOMOBILE DRIVING IN SOMERSET COUNTY *The Courier-News, 26 June 1905, page 4*

This is the way the Somerville Unionist-Gazette editorially discusses the subject of reckless automobile driving in Somerset county, which has stirred some of the farmers to strive for some means of stopping it: "... Complaints are numerous among those who drive on the roads of the danger of handling horses in these days when the machines are rushing up and down at a mile-a-minute gait. People complain that there is no longer any comfort on the highways, especially on Sunday. Freeholders are in despair because they cannot keep their roads in repair. From all over the country come numerous accounts of fatalities caused by careless chauffeurs. There is something wrong with present conditions. If machines continue to increase in number and speed there will either have to be separate highways or some safeguards. They are here to stay and have as much right to the highways as other vehicles. The trouble is that many of the drivers of machines think they have more rights than those driving horses. Because of the speed and power they take advantage of their weaker brethren who have so little opportunity to resent interference. What makes the condition worse, the great majority of those who go rushing over our roads come from a distant county or even from some other state, pay nothing for the use of the roads and yet are the most indifferent to the rights of those who have paid for the privilege of having good, comfortable roads."

JUNE 1925 100 YEARS AGO

NEW SOMERSET HOSPITAL OPEN FOR INSPECTION *Bernardsville News, 4 June 1925, page 5*

Somerville. The new Somerset Hospital will be open for inspection by the public from Monday, May 25, to Sunday, May 31 inclusive, from 2 to 9 P.M., except Decoration Day, when it will be open from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. and Sunday from 2 to 6 P.M. Everybody welcome. *Board of Trustees*

NOTE: The new hospital opened for business in August 1925.

Image: 1925 postcard of the new Somerset Hospital, cf: cardcow.com



LIBERTY CORNER GROWING *Bernardsville News, 11 June 1925, page 2*

Where children grow they sometimes have "growing pains;" growing pains bring moans. There was a little moaning over here but we are growing in spite of local pains and the field now in use as a ball diamond is to be the town's very own playground – forever. Arthur Burnett has been officially placed as a representative and the fire company is backing the purchase of this beautiful tract of land. Slowly but surely, wholesome plans for sports for young and old will unfold and everyone feels pretty happy at this token of "getting together for the greatest good."

CHANTANT OPENS TOMORROW *The Courier-News, 26 June 1925, page 15*

Somerville. The Elks' Café Chantant, the largest annual undertaking of the local lodge, will open on the Elks' point tomorrow evening. Open-air dancing will be one of the features of the chantant. On Thursday and Thursday nights, Charleston Dance contests will be held and \$5 in gold awarded to the winner. Each evening a gate prize of \$5 will be awarded to the holder of the lucky number. The Dixieland and Paramount orchestras have been secured to play on alternating nights.

JUNE 1975 50 YEARS AGO

FRANKLIN CORNERS FEDERAL HISTORIC PLACE *Bernardsville News, 19 June 1975, page 2*

Bernards Twp. Township officials received word this week that the Franklin Corners area has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the second area in the township to be so designated in recent weeks. The Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church was recently included on the National Register, which makes a building or area eligible for federal funds for restoration and preservation and protects it from encroachment by projects funded by the government. Franklin Corners consists of the 132-year-old Van Dorn Mill on Route 202 and approximately a dozen 19th-century homes on Childs and Hardscrabble Roads. The area had previously been placed on the New Jersey Historic Sites Register. According to the research of many of the present residents of the area, the land was originally part of a tract owned by William Penn. It was first settled before the Revolutionary War and included farms, a grist mill, blacksmith's shop and school. Most of the property owners have preserved their homes in their original condition.