

140 YEARS AGO MARCH 1885

A LAW JUDGE FOR SOMERSET COUNTY *The Courier-News, 28 March 1885, page 1*

The bill providing for a law judge for Somerset County has passed the Legislature, and it now remains for Governor Abbett to make the appointment. Several of Somerville's lawyers are aspirants for the position. North Plainfield, however, has come to the front with a candidate who does not seek the place. Somerville has for a number of years received all the legal honors of the county, and residents of North Plainfield think that their rising community should be recognized in the new appointment. Republicans and Democrats alike unite in presenting to the Governor's attention the name of John H. Jackson, a lawyer whose ability is known and recognized throughout the county and State. A number of persons have urged him to push himself forward as a candidate for the position. This he has declined to do, being of the opinion that the office should seek the man and not the man the office. In doing this, he has given another evidence of his fitness for the position. Assemblyman Vetterlein, Somerset county's Democratic representative in the Legislature, is in favor of the appointment of Mr. Jackson as law judge of the county.

100 YEARS AGO MARCH 1925

FILMS FOR LIBERTY THEATRE BURN

Bernardsville News, 12 March 1925, page 2

The old proverb that "You can't keep a good man down," still holds good for it was amply demonstrated last Saturday by Harry T. Miller of Anderson road, owner and manager of Liberty Theatre, who overcame the great handicap of having the films scheduled for his evening's show destroyed in a fire which wiped out the America Railway Express Company's office at the local railroad station early this morning. He secured duplicates of the picture destroyed, re-advertised and played the show as scheduled to two crowded houses. The original films had been shipped to Mr. Miller from an exchange in New York and were awaiting delivery when the fire broke out. The films cost 20 cents a foot, and though about 9,000 feet is known to have been burned up, at a loss of \$1,800, there is a possibility that the entire shipment of 14,000 feet was destroyed by water and heat.



Image: Downtown Bernardsville circle in the mid 1920s.
Source: Bernardsville Library. Liberty Theatre was the premiere local venue for silent movies in the 1920's. Cf: mrlocalhistory.org

WILL INSTALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM *The Courier-News, 12 March 1925, page 9*

The Building Committee of the Bridgewater Township Board of Education is conferring with Fire Chief J. J. Sculley, of the Raritan Fire Department as to the advisability of having a fire alarm system installed in the various school buildings in Raritan. Fire extinguishers have already been placed in all of the schools of the township and this further fire protection is planned.

CENSUS SHOWS SOMERVILLE POPULATION OF 7,500 *The Courier-News, 13 March 1925, page 12*

The figures arrived at through a canvass of houses in the borough by the Chamber of Commerce shows the population to be approximately 7,500, the actual figures at this time being 7,384 as compiled by the secretary of the chamber. ... In checking over [the family cards] there are found cases where the head of the house failed to report to the census taker all persons living in the house or claiming it to be their home. ...It is believed a complete check of these will bring our population to the 7,500 mark. / The official census figures taken in 1920 credited Somerville with a population of 6,718. This [1925 census] shows an increase of 10 %.

CHARGE OF STEALING FROM SMOKE HOUSE *The Courier-News, 17 March 1925, page 15*

Last week, Mrs. Mary Trushko, a hard working Polish woman who lives between South Bound Brook and Middlebush, purchased a pig, killed it, cut it up, and hung about 85 pounds of pork in a smoke house for curing. Saturday morning, when Mrs. Trushko went to the outbuildings to do a number of chores, she noticed that the smoke house door was open and upon investigation found that the building was empty. Some little distance down the road she found evidence that the robber's appetite had been tempted by some partially smoked sausage. As he partook of the viand, pieces of the covering were thrown to the ground. Following these, Mrs. Trushko was led to the property of J. Krilla on the opposite side of the road. Krilla is a neighbor and Mrs. Trushko entered the house. In an adjoining room she saw John Varga, an employee of Krilla, and in another section of the room, the missing meat. Varga gathered these up and attempted to make away with them. He was intercepted by Mrs. Trushko who took what remained of the meat away from him. Varga attacked Mrs. Trushko but she shook him off and made for home with her property.

NO LONGER CALLED UPON FOR CHOCOLATE SODAS *Bernardsville News, 6 March 1925, page 3*

When Senator Borah was assigned to investigate the campaign "slush funds" he said, "This is like old times. Evidently politics is the one thing that hasn't been revolutionized even though we do have women voters. Since the war, everything is decidedly different from what it used to be. Why, only the other day, I overheard two young ladies talking in front of the Willard: 'I suppose,' said one, 'that you're on your way to the drug store to let Dick treat you to a chocolate soda.' 'Not at all,' exclaimed the other, 'I'm going to meet him at the barber shop and he's going to treat me to a bob.'"