

**FLASHBACK 1921 100 years ago**

**NJ Legislature Passes “Dry” Enforcement Laws;  
Bills for Women Jurors**

Somerset Democrat, March 11, 1921, p. 1

The Prohibition Enforcement Act was the center of attraction, discussion and argument around the State House at the opening of this week’s session of the Legislature. ....The bill, which secured final passage in the Assembly some two weeks ago, was made the special order of business for Monday night’s Senate session.....well after midnight, the bill was adopted by a vote of 17 to 4.

Senator Mackay procured favorable action on the three companion bills, making women eligible to serve on grand and petit juries and on juries in the District and Small Cause courts. As these bills have already passed the House, it is anticipated that women on New Jersey juries will be an accomplished fact in the very near future.

**Making American Citizens**

Somerset Democrat, March 4, 1921, p. 1

United States Naturalization Examiner A. E. Stevens ...[conducted] preliminary examinations for final citizenship papers at the Court House in this place. During the morning the examinations were held in the county clerk’s office, but in the afternoon the applicants, together with their witnesses became so numerous that it was necessary to move into larger quarters and the Board room was thrown open for the purpose.

Altogether, Mr Stevens interviewed 120 persons and examined 40 applicants, the greater number of whom were Russians, Italians, Austrians, Hungarians and Germans, with a small per centage from the British Isles. The final examinations will take place before Judge Frank L. Cleary at the April term of court. ....

**Changing Times for Women, 1921**

Women’s lives were changing in the new decade. Following their new right to vote, *The Somerset Democrat* reported on March 11<sup>th</sup> that the state legislature now allowed them to serve on juries. Spring fashions in the Main Street store ads had a new modern look and shorter hemlines. Department store Proprietor Charles Schwed of Somerville asked and answered this question in an ad celebrating his 50 years in business: “*Were People Different in 1871? The answer is Yes and No. Modes of living were different, styles were different, but human nature is much the same.*” Ads were promoting new technology for women in the home. A new efficient ironing machine was being touted as more efficient and a new gas range, touted by Public Service as “*woman’s emancipator*”, promised women “*Every Afternoon Off*”. A new vacuum ice cream freezer made its delicious product without the need for laborious cranking and churning.



**For Busy Mothers**

With Thor aid the busiest woman can easily keep little folks dainty. It irons practically all the washing in one-third the time required for hand ironing.  
See the Thor ironer; sold on divided payments, so easy that any woman may have one.

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