

100 YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1924



WHAT THE TAXPAYERS WANT *Bernardsville News, Oct 9, 1924, p 8*

William D. Van Derbeek for Freeholder. From my own wide experience as a businessman and property owner in Somerset County, I know that we all want good roads. We want our County and Township roads properly maintained and in good condition at all times. **This is an age of motor traffic, and properly maintained roads** are of as much value to the farmers as they are to the tourist. They are equally of value to the merchants of every borough and town in the county because they bring business to them at all seasons of the year. There is enough money spent by the Townships and by Somerset County now to have all roads in good condition and if a **proper and uniform road maintenance system** was established by all the townships there would be less waste and more roads. I stand pledged to work for such a system. *[Note: The Vanderbeek family business in the 1800s was quarrying stone. J. Vanderbeek's antebellum home in Somerville currently houses the parish offices of Immaculate Conception Church.]*

COUNTY MAY TAKE OVER NEARBY ROADS *Courier-News, Oct 2, 1924, p 9*

Bound Brook. Among the roads which the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders have been asked to take into the county system in the proposed referendum at the coming election are a number of roads in this vicinity, some of them leading directly out of the borough. These are highways which will connect up with other roads of the county system. One of the leading roads which the Bridgewater Township Committee has asked the freeholders to take into the county system is the important highway connecting the borough of Bound Brook with the borough of Somerville and leading along the trolley track of the New Jersey turnpike. The road passes the leading industries of Bridgewater Township, and if improved would prove to be a valuable asset to these big manufacturing plants. Another road which...is being considered by the Board is the road leading from the Bound Brook borough line, by way of Chimney Rock to Martinsville. *[Note: The state highway referenced is present day Route 28.]*

FARMERS FORM PROTECTIVE GROUP *Courier-News, Oct 31, 1924, p 24*

North Branch. Twenty-three farmers of South Branch and vicinity met in Grange Hall at that place Tuesday night and organized the Branchburg Township Protective Association. The object is to protect their farms from city gunners during the hunting season.

OBSERVING COLUMBUS DAY *Courier-News, Oct 13, 1924, p 11*

Bound Brook. Columbus Day is being observed in Bound Brook and vicinity today, the actual anniversary of the discovery of America occurring yesterday. ... The streets of the town are decorated with the standards recently adopted for use here and present a holiday appearance. ... In the parochial schools, exercises in commemoration of the anniversary are being held.

WATCHUNG COUNCIL CELEBRATES COLUMBUS DAY *Courier-News, Oct 14, 1924, p 1*

The Columbus Day banquet, given last night at the Columbus Club, under the auspices of Watchung Council, No. 552, Knights of Columbus, in honor of the discoverer of the New World, proved an inspirational affair. ... The whole spirit of the occasion was delightful in its fellowship, and in its purpose to destroy the hatred too long existing between persons of different political and religious faiths, and introduce a better understanding of each other for the good of all.

NIGHT SCHOOL FOR CITIZENSHIP *Courier-News, Oct 29, 1924, p 9*

Raritan. Classes in citizenship and American History under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association [Y.M.C.A.] and the supervision of John F. Reger, will start this evening at 7:30 in the new Raritan public school. Mr. Reger has for the past five years devoted much of his time in making it possible for the men seeking citizenship, and living in and around Raritan, to get the much needed education, which is required in obtaining American citizenship. ... Classes in English under volunteer teachers ... will also start this evening. The new law affecting women's citizenship makes it necessary for the women to go to school as well as the men. The cost of the school is very small as the pupils are only required to pay for their books.

INFANTRY REUNION *Courier-News, Oct 3, 1924, p 9*

Somerville. The 113th Infantry to which a number of Somerville men belonged during the World War, will hold a reunion in the Trenton armory, October 18 and 19. Several local men are planning to attend. Further information concerning the reunion may be obtained by writing to George Fleming, vice-president of the 113th Infantry War Veterans Association at 203 East State street, Trenton.

LACE MAKERS END STRIKE *Courier-News, Oct 16, 1924, p 5*

Somerville. The ten-week strike of employees of the Redfern Lace Works at Somerville was concluded last Thursday as the result of conferences. The strike was over use of a different kind of thread from that formerly supplied by the factory managers. The weavers declared they were unable to turn out as many pieces per hour as before, resulting in lower wages.

Photo circa 1966 after factory closure. RFLW was located in a 3-story brick factory at 30 S. Doughty and had a second plant on Bell Ave, employing 150 people in the 1920s. Samples of their laces were buried in Somerville's 1959 time capsule and are currently on display at Borough Hall.

