

Thanksgiving, 1954

As Americans observe Thanksgiving Day next week they will be giving thanks for their blessings the sixth time in eleven years without the nation being at war.

Since Thanksgiving of 1941, which was before Pearl Harbor, the nation has witnessed 13 Thanksgiving Days, including this year's, and on more than half of them, American boys have been dying on battlefronts in faraway corners of the world.

Thanksgiving is perhaps the most American of all our holidays.

The first New England day of thanks for the harvest was probably in 1621, and observed by brother of Governor Bradford.

The colonists reportedly went out into the woods and shot several turkeys and brought them back to the settlement to be cooked for dinner.

THE INDIANS HEARD of the celebration, according to the story, and entered the settlement with several deer. The settlers and Indians feasted together.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation issued by any President was issued by Washington in 1789, and set aside a day of thanksgiving for the adoption of the Constitution.

As a national holiday and religious observance, Thanksgiving probably dates from 1863, when Abraham Lincoln—acting on the suggestion of Mrs. Sarah J. Hale—issued a national Thanksgiving

Proclamation. Lincoln set aside the last Thursday in November as the day to be observed.

SINCE THAT TIME, the observance has been adopted and annually held in all the states of the Union. Actually, the practice of setting apart a day for thanks did not originate in New England, and there is much disagreement over the origin. The idea probably is as old as the worshipping spirit, although it has been carried out on a national scale better by the United States government than of all other countries. Few other Christian nations have such a yearly festival.

Perhaps it is fitting that the people of the United States should observe Thanksgiving more thoroughly than most of the nations.

WE IN THIS COUNTRY enjoy more of the blessings of life than do any other people. Indeed, we have more to be thankful for than any other people on earth, and it is well for us all to remember our blessings—not only on the last Thursday of November, but on every day of the year.

Having been blessed with comparative prosperity, with progress and good living conditions, and—in addition—good harvests for many years, we in the United States have many reasons for thanksgiving.

Decisions Build Character

While everyone likes to meet a child who is well-disciplined, very often disciplining a child to the extent that he is not given a chance to make any decisions can be very harmful to the proper development of the child.

It is very important that parents and others, who are charged with training children, allow young people an opportunity to make decisions for themselves.

Giving a child an opportunity to select the clothes he will wear on certain occasions often benefits the child, although the mother may be a little embarrassed at times. It also pays dividends to give a child some say as to which chores he would prefer to do.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DECIDING

Relax and Have Fun

For a great many people sports isn't the excellent recreation that it is supposed to be.

People who have fast-paced jobs in our complex society need to like it easy. If sports requires the same mad pace that our daily routine requires, it provides little recreational value.

The golfer who doesn't allow enough time to drive to his favorite golf course and as a consequence has to drive his automobile at a high rate of speed, the hunter who doesn't allow enough time for sleep or for a good breakfast, the fisherman who works hard at the lake or stream

whether he would prefer to kill the flies in the house or clean up the front lawn makes the young member of the family feel that he is a co-worker in a joint enterprise, rather than a private in the rear ranks just taking orders.

We even have heard about the mother who kept two bars of soap in the bathroom, so her two-year-old could make a choice each day whether to use the white or the green soap.

The young man or woman who is allowed to make decisions at all stages in life (in line with their maturity and judgment) will develop into a responsible citizen less likely to have a mental breakdown than the individual whose parents have sheltered him from decisions.

trying to catch more fish than anyone else, is going to be in worse shape after his day of recreation is over than he was before his day of relaxation began.

THE BEST EXAMPLE of successful sportsmen that we know of is the small boy or the man who sits happily dangling a hook from a country bridge or a shady bank.

They may not have boats and fine tackle, they may not catch any fish, but their relaxed attitude is right and they're

should be confined in jail, for short periods of time, in order to prevent them from going wrong and eventually becoming hoodlums." Noack's words are worthy of sincere discussion. Ten days in a local jail, as a preventive measure, are worth more than potentially possible years in prison in later life.

The great variety of interests that human beings engage in is wonderful to behold. For example; recently a German tight-rope walker spent 31 hours and 30 minutes on a wire, standing in his slippers. He now claims a new world record for that feat... unless, of course, you are willing to overlook certain politicians who have spent years doing the same type of balancing act on important public issues.

So They Say ...

Alfred M. Gruenther, Supreme Allied commander of North Atlantic Defense forces:

"Russia would be beaten very badly in the long run if it were to launch an all-out attack on Western Europe at this time."

Douglas M. Kelley, M. D., professor of criminology, University of California: "We must attack traffic deaths with any and all methods as vigorously as we attack cancer deaths."

John M. Murtagh, chief city magistrate of New York City:

"New York is one of the few cities where you can neither fix nor forget a traffic ticket."

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

An intelligent foreign visitor to our shores, during the recent election campaign, well might wonder what is wrong with top leadership in this nation's two major political parties, The Democrats, not being in the dominant position in the federal government, are treating Ike's cabinet and Republicans in Congress as though they were a bunch of dirty alley cats. On the higher plane of criticism, the Republicans argue that 20 years of FDR-Truman really skidded the United States into the Welfare State. (Do you wonder, then, why so many average, decent citizens get disgusted with their politicians, and many of them won't even vote?)

Walter M. Noack, for many years director of Michigan's liquor control commission enforcement procedures, recently stated his belief that teen-age drinkers

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Be Careful With the Gravy



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Thanksgiving is just around the corner with those old and new American ways of celebration.

In spite of numerous football activities, the traditional observance still centers around church services and family gatherings.

Family gatherings still mean a test to the culinary skill of the housewife as she plans to ply her family and friends with a special dinner.

Actually, this Thanksgiving dinner, like the special meals of every holiday, is big business. The efforts of one housewife are multiplied hundreds of thousands of times across the country and the results, reckoned in dollars and cents, would be amazing.

Already thousands upon thousands of turkeys, ducks, geese and chickens, to say nothing of other meats, have been prepared for market. Other hundreds are being sold by farmers who raise them on a smaller scale to meet local demands.

In some specified sections of the country harvesters have been busy in the cranberry bogs "raking" tons of the bright red berries into hoppers for sorting, shipping, canning and raw sales.

The same applies to the farmers who grow pumpkins. There again comes the processing for the housewife who wants canned pumpkin and the direct sale from farmer to consumer for those who want to make their pies "from scratch."

And so it goes: cherry growers, fruit farmers, potato growers and all the rest. Wipe out the Thanksgiving dinner and a whole new economic pattern would result.

Estimating the Thanksgiving dinner on a national scale leaves another possibility which, were it known, would come up with a staggering figure—the cost of preparing these meals.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

November 18, 1904
"Miss Grace Carpenter, daughter of Arthur C. Carpenter, has taken up the study of professional nursing, and is now at Grace hospital, a pleased and happy student. Her many friends wish her the greatest success attainable for a sweet disposition and a vigorous young lady."

"Miss Martha Sinclair, Miss Elizabeth Sinclair and Miss Georgia Slough of Chicago, attended the Chicago-Michigan football game at Ann Arbor and came on here and arrived this afternoon. A Ward. It was a jolly family reunion."

"Five years ago next March Thomas Hanna left Birmingham, since which time he has seen life and a strenuous one, too, away out in Cape Nome, Alaska, a ten days' sail from Seattle, Wash. After digging and delving for a time after gold in that cold and far off country, our friend Tom returned to Seattle where he has since been successfully engaged in mercantile pursuits."

"The Birmingham football team defeated the local Oak team last Saturday by a score of 26 to 0. It was reported in the Detroit Tribune a short time ago that Birmingham was afraid of Royal Oak and had cancelled the game on that account."

30 YEARS AGO

November 14, 1924
"With the election of Luther D. Allen to the position of Oakland county road commissioner which office he will formally occupy January 1st, 1925, his new township will probably be supervised by Robert V. Moore, present township clerk."

Superintendent Clarence Vliet of Birmingham was elected treasurer of the Oakland County Schoolman's Association, newly organized last week at a dinner meeting at the Board of Commerce in Pontiac. School superintendents from all over the county were present to form this association as suggested by E. J. Ledely, of Royal Oak, county commissioner of schools.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Many magazines have been featuring special articles written around the theme, "Outer Space—Then What?"

Space stations, or artificial satellites, say the authors of these articles, probably will be the first step in such explorations of outer space.

This opens a wonderful new vista for the world's lawyers—the argument, of course, will be over who owns space?

Thus far, there have been no rules or regulations set up to govern travel through outer space, either.

Perhaps there will be no need for determining who has the special right-of-way. After all, what would be left of a couple of rocket ships which collided at an interplanetary traffic signal at 18,000 miles an hour?

In recent years, the trend in school architecture has been to one-story, flat-roofed buildings, erected on large sites and featuring multiple-use classrooms, new lighting methods, better ventilation and outdoor athletic facilities.

This new emphasis reportedly obtains economy of construction and maintenance, and a stimulating educational environment rather than ornamentals and frills.

But many a school board has a mighty hard time proving "these points to the alumni who were graduated from '01' PS 92" as recently as a decade ago.

If the predictions of scientists are ac-

curate, you and I probably will live to see the day when space rocket passengers experience the sensation scientists call "zero gravity."

If you recall the movie the U.S. Air Force released quite some while ago, two mice were photographed as they traveled inside a V-2 rocket, which went 200,000 feet into the air.

These movies of the mice showed it pays to keep one's head.

One mouse struggled wildly on the side of his container, unable to control his position.

THE OTHER MOUSE, however, remained calm, gripped his platform and stayed quiet during the weightless period. He was in command of his body and did not float.

Thus it seems that the problem of walking, while apparently a simple maneuver while on earth, may become complicated at zero gravity altitude.

Walking is based on the principle of falling forward, so this method would not produce the forward motion at zero gravity.

ONE MIGHT BE ABLE to lift his foot into the air and keep it there, just as easily as letting it return to the floor. One also could lean over and remain as comfortable, with no thought of falling as if he were standing straight up.

In fact, one would be able to lie down three feet above the floor, which would have its comfort advantages.

It sounds like such a place would be a fat man's paradise.

Among Finalists in 'Soldier of Week'

A Birmingham soldier was among the six finalists in the "Soldier of Week" contest held by year ago, and is assigned to the Fourth Armored Division for duty "A" 48th Tank Battalion, the last week of October at Fort Worth where he is a number on an M-18 tank.

He is Private Warren Silver. In the final judging in the contest, he represented Combat Company, the Howard C. Silverthorn, reside at home "B", which consists of four Birmingham residents.

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