



Thanksgiving

For things to eat, for things to wear,
 For sheltered home, for all the care
 That Thou hast shown my every need
 I'm thankful Lord, in word and deed.

For friends and loved ones I am glad
 To thank Thee, Lord—for when I'm sad
 They come to me with words of cheer,
 And thus Thou liv'st with me each year.

Oh, Lord, I pray Thee make me worth
 The loveliness of this good earth!
 Oh, smile upon this greed-torn world
 Until in every land's unfurled
 The banner of a Love that's fit
 To wear the robes of Holy Writ.

For sun and moon and stars above,
 For love of Life and love of Love
 I'm bending on my knee this day
 In true humility to pray

My thankfulness, my gratitude,
 For every Christ-Beatitude.
 And, as life tumbles on its way,
 I hope that each Thanksgiving Day
 Will make my song of thanks ring clear
 On every day throughout each year.

—GEORGE W. AVERILL

NATURE NOW By Lydia King Freshes
 Special Writer for The Birmingham Economist

Methods of Soil Conquest Changing

"Our corn did prove well and God be Prayed we had a good increase and our Barley indifferent good but our Pease not worth the gathering." Thus wrote one celebrant of the first Thanksgiving in the New World.

Harvest festivals throughout all the ages have represented the culmination of man's conquest of the soil. They were the rejoicing after a season of grueling toil which included the preparation of the seed bed, planting and tending the crop and the final harvest. This was good, bad or indifferent, with the vicissitudes of the season and the measure of man's toil.

Today man's effort to control the variable factors which contribute to the miracle of the harvest remains an unfinished conquest. The first great advance came when he first planted stick horizontally to make a crude wooden plow which was pulled across the second came when he domesticated animals to pull it for him.

THE USE OF metal for agricultural implements did not come until general usage until the beginning of the nineteenth century, when a method for manufacturing cast-iron engines was discovered. The turn of our present century brought the perfection of the combustion engine, so that a single man with a tractor can do the work of a score of animals.

A corresponding development of reaping and processing machines has further mechanized the agricultural process, so that one man can now do the work of 12.

But modern man is as strongly linked to the plants that feed him as was his ancient brother who by patient tending developed our present food crops from strains he found growing wild about him. From corn, wheat, rice, sorghum, plant juices, roots, bark, wood, buds, leaves, seeds and fruit is the life-line of all our progress.

THUS FAR, MAN has studied and worked with the habits of soil plants. Of these, some 2,300 species are known.

AN EAR OF corn 4,000 years old was found in Bat Cave in New Mexico. Paleobotanists believe that these early strains were not more than two kernels to each spikelet. The history of corn, called maize by the Indians, dates back through the ancient Mayan elites of Yucatan, where it was the chief cereal grain and figured largely in their art motifs. Corn pollen has been unearthed in sediments laid down during the Ice age in a lake bed near Mexico City.

Our modern cereals are all hybrids, developed from what are now extinct wild strains embellished by thousands of years of added cross-breeding and culture. The wheat, corn, rye, oats and barley which feed the West, more delicate of stalk and culture, feeds the Eastern half of the world.

WHEAT WAS FIRST cultivated in the Mediterranean region of Asia and Africa at least 4,000 years ago. It still grows wild in the highlands of Syria and Palestine, never ripening more than two kernels to each spikelet.

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Mrs. Freshes

In his Birmingham Town Hall appearances two weeks ago, the eminent Dr. Norman Vincent Peale admitted his astonishment at the number of sleeping pills the nation needs.

Exclaimed the author, minister, lecturer, "Why, this nation today needs 21 million sleeping tablets each night before it can get to sleep, its people are so nervous and tense.

"If a person can do anything at all, you'd think at least he could sleep! Why, you can't even put 'em to sleep in church of a Sunday morning any more . . . and that's a sad state of affairs!"

Preservers of Birmingham's "village atmosphere" will be pleased to note that there still is some of it left. Seen in an East Maple street door last Thursday was this note: "Out to Lunch—Back at 2'.

What do you do when 1,200 school children move into your district during the three summer months?

That's what hit the Birmingham school district this fall, meaning about 40 classrooms or their equivalent had to be ready.

Sir, the late 40's, Birmingham schools have been racing to meet this influx, let alone get ahead of it.

Richard Featherstone, an assistant school superintendent, had to be placed in charge of this building program. He has had to devote nearly all his time to it, too.

Right now, he's got an 87-classroom program in various stages of completion. This includes four new schools and addi-

tions to five others.

This program will meet anticipated needs up to the fall of 1957. Then still another building phase will have to be undertaken.

If you think the board of education's estimates are unround, look at this: Back in 1950, when only 3,950 pupils were enrolled in the entire system, a citizens' committee estimated the immediate years ahead, and said there would be 9,899 students by the fall of 1956. Actual count showed there were 10,063. This was a gain of 6,113.

How close can you get?

How much pleasanter to respect when it isn't demanded, how much happier to give when the gift is unexpected!

SUM ANSWER:
 Statistician: Sir, I've added up this column of figures now 10 times."
 Boss: "Good for you!"
 Statistician: "And here are the 10 answers."

And then there was the politician who didn't give a dam.

Before agreeing that today's bathing suit styles are indecent, as some persons have claimed, most men would like to reserve their answer till all the figures have been considered.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS:
 "Why, all you've got to do is say you're a friend of mine."

LEGAL NOTICE
 Forbes Haskell, Atty. Briggs Bldg., Birmingham 47.72

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 14th day of November, A. D. 1956.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

It is the Order of the Estate of VERNON E. PATCHE, Deceased.

That the late said decedent has left a copy of this order on each week for court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to Milton H. Patch, or to some other suitable person, and that the said estate be administered in said county.

It is Ordered, That the 17th day of December A. D. 1956, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.

If the Petitioner Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this case, by delivery of a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail, return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Economist, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
 Judge of Probate (36-37-38)

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As Security Increases, Liberty is Lost

In the view of Herbert Hoover, the greatest issue in America and all mankind is the encroachments of government to master our lives."

That single brief sentence says more than a hundred windy political speeches—or tortuously phrased partisan platitudes designed to offer all things to all men.

Those who look to government for doles, for favors, for special privileges, for cradle-to-the-grave security, will find that government will demand the death of liberty in return. Then we will have the security of the prison.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Again, the Torch Drive quota for our Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area has "gone over the top." The original objective was \$211,196; amount raised was \$222,000. This successful local campaign provides considerable personal satisfaction to many human beings . . . including local chairman Ernest A. Jones and his scores of voluntary workers. As we have often said in this newspaper: "A good deal of this world's best work for the human family is done by voluntary efforts of men and women who are willing to give of their time, and often money, to aid a worthy project.

Life magazine vividly restates what it termed an "old truth" in these words: ". . . The more a government does for you the more it has to do to you." Before government can provide you with any service, it must first take the money from the pockets of you and all the rest of the taxpayers. And it always takes more than it returns, inasmuch as the administrative costs run high. That isn't all—or even the worst of it. Any welfare state eventually turns to a cheap money policy and lets loose the tides of inflation. Every dollar then buys less and less. The result is a murderous combination of sky-high taxes and depreciated money.

It's a far cry from the days of Socialist leaders Eugene V. Debs and Norman Thomas, both of whom numerous times were candidates for the Presidency, to Dwight D. Eisenhower . . . yet the ideologies fought for by Debs and Thomas are now finding their ways into state and federal governments. Democrats and Republicans today embrace the welfarism of Socialism, though the GOP applies it at a slower pace. Nothing of a wide-spread organization now exists to oppose this drift.

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"It's a nice business! I never yet had a customer come back and complain about our barrels!"

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.

39 YEARS AGO
 November 23, 1916
 "Each women's club in this vicinity and every women's society, church societies and all should help to maintain the women's rest room in the court house."

"The biggest event of the season will take place Thanksgiving afternoon, when the 1904 and 1916 Birmingham football team will play the strong Cadillac team from Detroit. Members of our club team will be home Thanksgiving and a great game is promised. In the two years that this team has played together they rolled up 412 points to their opponents 6, and work not scored on once during the 1955 season, playing in all nine games."

"Fine elms have just been planted along the entire front of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell's home, just north of this village. You know the Club women started this line of trees last spring. It is to go from Pontiac to Detroit. Who is next?"

38 YEARS AGO
 November 18, 1918
 "Final approval was given for the new ice skating rink at the southwest corner of Worth and Rivenook by members of the Northeastern Civic association at their meeting last night at the Adams school. The rink will be 185 x 140 feet in size."

"The new brick and steel garage being built by William McCallum at 217 South Woodward avenue is progressing today and according to announcement made by Mr. McCallum it is expected to be completed by Jan. 1, provided the weather does not interfere . . . The building occupies 34,000 square feet and will house 100 motor buses to be used by Star Motor Coach and the Public Service Transit company. The buses will operate between points in Oakland County south of Birmingham and the Ford Motor company in Highland Park."

From a column titled Theater Gossip of New York, Beatrice Lillie's musical comedy, now called "Oh, Please!"—there is also a chance that it will be called "Lily of the Valley"—will open in Philadelphia next week."

15 YEARS AGO
 November 19, 1941
 "A delegation of perhaps 2,000 Birmingham people is expected to wend its way to Royal Oak tomorrow morning for the 25th renewal of football rivalry between the two schools."

"The Union Thanksgiving Service" is to be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Thursday morning, Nov. 20, at 8 o'clock. Members and friends of all churches are cordially invited to join in this service of Thanksgiving."

THE OLD TIMER
 "If your wife wants to learn to drive the car, don't stand in her way!"

For the price of a package of pins* you can dry 2 full loads of diapers in your electric clothes dryer. Dryer-dried laundry is finished quick as a wink so babies get by nicely with smaller layettes. Soft, fluff-dried washables last longer, too, with gentle dryer care. Smart homemakers know you can . . .

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