

Thanksgiving Day 96 Years Old

This year Thanksgiving — a national religious festival — is ninety-six years old. It began in 1863 and credit for beginning the observance is usually given to Mrs. Sarah J. Hale.

Less than one month separates Thanksgiving this year from Christmas, which means that these two national religious observances are only twenty-eight days apart. However, Thanksgiving — unlike Christmas — is not so highly commercialized.

Thanksgiving was originally regarded with almost the same reverence as was shown for Sunday. It was customary for families to attend religious services and afterwards to gather around the table and a bounteous dinner, including turkey and pumpkin pie.

IN SOME INSTANCES churches were decorated with farm products in order that the members of the congregation might see what they had to be thankful for.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation, issued by any President, came in 1789.

when George Washington ordered a day of Thanksgiving for the adoption of the Constitution. President Madison also set a day to give thanks for the peace during 1815, but it was not until the time of Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, that we had a national Thanksgiving proclamation, setting apart the last Thursday in November as a day to be observed.

Our Thanksgiving Day in the United States, then, is relatively young, but it has taken hold more firmly than any other Thanksgiving Day in any other country, and has spread to the various corners of the world.

IT IS ONE OF OUR most-enjoyed holidays, a colorful observance and an inspiration.

On this annual Thanksgiving Day is it not required that each of us direct our grateful thoughts to the fact that we are living in a blessed country? Should we not take Thanksgiving Day dinner time, at least, to talk with our family the reasons why this Day is observed?

Should we not endeavor to be truly thankful?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

It appears that new federal laws may have to be enacted to control such situations as attend the steel strike. Two big groups, management and labor, symbolize that old cliché: "What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable body?" The correct answer, of course, is that both must effect a compromise. So perhaps Congress may pass legislation creating some form of a labor court. We have civil and criminal courts, to adjudicate differences. If collective bargaining cannot work in the environment of "bigness", then this form of individual freedom must give way, alas! to the brutalizing influence of cold government.

A plan to get the federal government out of all businesses it now operates that are in direct competition with private enterprises, plus the outlawing of all income, gift and estate taxes, is contained in a proposed "23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution." A group of citizens, including business and professional men and women, is pushing the desired amendment; they call their organization the "National Committee for Economic Freedom." Its office is in Los Angeles, 6413 Franklin Ave. This group has just concluded a national convention in Chicago, where plans for further activities during 1960 were formulated.

A VOICE FROM BEYOND: "What has happened to my glorious country?" asks Teddy Roosevelt, as he looks upon the United States. "Why does my country not retain the respect of most other countries? Why do my beloved people allow a little pip-squeak place like Panama, or Venezuela, or Egypt, or others, to menace the life of a Vice-President, tear up our flag, wreck destruction to one of our foreign embassies? Why? Oh, why are these things tolerated?"

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

There's a paucity of scientific demonstration kits for use by Birmingham grade school instructors. I understand there's only a couple in existence—and umpteens as many demands.

It occurs to me that the boys in our junior high manual training classes might be persuaded to make up a number of such demonstration kits.

They aren't difficult to construct—and there's always plenty of odds and ends around the attic or basement which make excellent conversions for a demonstrator.

Cookie cutters, breadboards, tie racks, and other handcrafted articles are most appreciated by parents. But I think Mom and Dad would generously go without such a gift if junior's time was spent in a scientific demonstration kit which many

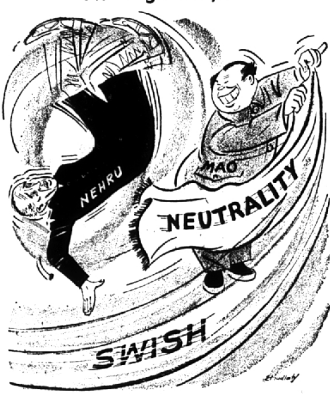
people could use—and for many years. Any Birmingham manual training teachers willing to try?

To an editor of a sunbathing magazine, nude news is good news.

Birmingham's mayor signs proclamations, greets visiting dignitaries, presides at regular and special city commission meetings. And attends countless luncheons and dinners. For this he receives no more than the regular commissioner's \$5 salary for each weekly commission meeting attended.

When his friends wonder why he gets into all this activity without compensation, Mayor Harry M. Denyes usually replies: "No, I don't get any more money, but I eat real well!"

No Magic Carpet



NATURE NOW by Lydia Kinz Frehe Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Seed Development Hits Peak in Fall

Plants, like people, are likely to travel at any season; but single for convenience new offspring are carried in cases called seeds. They naturally do more journeying at season's end when the largest number of these ripen.

Nature puts seeds in all kinds and sizes of containers and equips them for efficient travel. Witness the largeness of a coconut, the the geneses of a cocoon, the smoothness of a bean or pea, the prickly barbs of a burdock or Spanish needle.

The business of seed development and dispersal goes on all through the season, but autumn has a corner on the market.

IT IS interesting to watch this pagan of seed production and dispersal in my wild flower garden.

Here an early spring flower, the twin-leaved, named Jeffersonia in honor of Thomas Jefferson, sheds its white petals. Then the seed box, shaped like a small urn with a flared lid, develops rapidly. It has matured and dried sufficiently so that it contracts and in so doing tips itself toward the earth. Soon the lid opens and the seeds, like small brown beads, spill out and roll away.

BY LATE MAY the wild geranium is the most conspicuous bloom in my garden. Within two weeks the flowers are replaced by a five-sided awl about three-fourths of an inch long.

At the base of each of its segments is a tiny cup holding a seed. As the seed matures it is raised in its enclosing tissue much like a hand ready to throw a ball. Then the warm sunshine pulls the trigger by shrinking the cells of the core until it frees itself.

Each strap then releases and curls upward throwing out the seed and coiling itself into a symmetrical design around the tip of the beak. If the seed is just at the correct stage of ripeness, this performance can be touched off by a gentle tap of the finger.

WITH AUTUMN COMES the ripening of berries holding seeds within their pulp.

Among these are the "doll's eyes" of the white hanceberry on their crimson purple stalks, the coral fruit of the eunonymus vine and the red bead-like berries of "Jack-in-the-pulpit" on their stout spathe.

Each of these adds its own beauty and color to my wild flower garden and then gently drops its seeds to earth.

IN LATE summer along streams and swamps, great patches of jewel weed ripen their seeds. Have you ever touched a long and slender pod only to have it explode and pop its seeds into your face?

This pod is made up of five strap-shaped segments which wind themselves up as it grows. When its core (to which the seeds are attached) ripens, it releases the tension, the segments snap free, coil up and throw out the seeds.

ON AUTUMN TRIPS along the Au Sable river, we frequently saw the wild cucumber which grows in a tangle over tall weeds and shrubs. As its prickly egg-shaped fruit ripens, a gas is generated which finally explodes, throwing the flat seeds a considerable distance from the mother plant.

These examples present only a small sample of nature's way with seeds. All season long from the blooming of the first pussy toes of late April until the last aster of autumn fades away, they have been ripening, each in its turn.

THIS HAS been a standard ritual preceded by blooming, pollination and the fading of the flower. But the methods which nature has invented to send each seed family on its separate way are amazing! I have seen highly specialized, and so it is that plants travel, the embryo of each species encased in its own unique seed. If they find a favorable growing space, they will make a new home for themselves the next season, often at some distance from the mother plant.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Nov. 28, 1909
The Detroit United Railway agreed to erect a passenger, freight express station for accommodation of patrons of the railway in the village.

Oakland county was wet again Monday.
Hunters are home today from their "deer" trip. "This said they did not have the best of luck."

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 27, 1929
"Whether the village of Birmingham will employ its own visiting nurse for welfare work or seek such service from the county or township sources now rests with the commissioners."

"Quartern Lake and the three lakes in the Bloomfield lake district will be the scene of many gay carnivals and recreational activities this winter."

15 YEARS AGO
Nov. 30, 1944
"Members of the Birmingham board of education passed the necessary resolution to bring Franklin's school facilities under Birmingham control. Franklin voters at a special election approved the annexation by a vote of 89 to 0."

Birmingham stores are being filled with Christmas merchandise and it seems there are thousands

of gift possibilities in every store. This year the business section will not be decorated on the exteriors."

STRICTLY FRESH

Your devotion to your job is someone else's apple polishing. Vacation's nearly over. Boss comes back next week.



Our grandchildren will recall the delicious pies that grandma used to defrost.
The fellow who wouldn't date the money girl who turned into a glamorous movie star was guilty of mis-judgment.

You are getting old when you begin to admire gray haired men in newspaper ads.

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale

CHILD BRAIN

I'd like to be-line for the door,
Or better still, drop through the floor—
I'm introducing my old flame,
And can't (ingest!) recall his name!

Landscape Design and Construction
Lawrence E. Smith
125 N. WOODWARD
in the Wilson Building
Phone MI 4 2036

THE GARDENER'S CORNER

The Answers to Your Gardening Questions
by Bob

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
Is there any special care the experts have for gardening tools?

BOB'S ANSWER:
About the best care you can give garden tools is to wash them with water, dry them and rub the metal parts with an oily rag. Good tools, properly cared for in this manner will last for many years and it takes only a few minutes to do the job.

For a brighter Christmas . . . we will have

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- Roping • Holly
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- Mistletoe

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HOMEMAKER'S NOTEBOOK

Helpful hints from Consumers Power Company's Home Economist

Delicious and Quick For a Couple or a Crowd!

And let's take that "after the big game" crowd for example. Those adventurous appetites will welcome plates of steaming Italian spaghetti surrounded with these special meatballs. When you prepare your meatballs beforehand, shape them around large stuffed olives or cubes of American cheese. A delicious surprise that will rate you your own special cheering section! And remember, whether new recipe or old favorite, you always get perfect results with a modern Gas range featuring the Burner-with-a-Brain. You simply set this amazing burner to the correct cooking temperature and automatic controls take over. A thermostat resting against the bottom of your pan promotes the flame . . . food won't scorch, burn or boil over. Ends pot watching and guesswork. The Burner-with-a-Brain is another reason why good cooks prefer modern Gas ranges. Let your Gas Range Dealer show you all the advantages of modern Gas cooking!