

THE FRONTIER . . . O'Neill, Nebr.

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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Why We Should Be Thankful

In recent issues, we have discussed to some extent coming events in the present year, following the big, outstanding event of the presidential election. That event was the most important of 1948 both from a political and news standpoint. Many other things happened during the period which were of great interest, but they were eclipsed in popular appeal by the election on Tuesday, November 2.

Well, election is over. It was a triumph for some people and a disappointment for other people; but that makes no difference now. It is past now and we leave it to the political analysts and commentators to discuss and explain. As far as The Frontier is concerned, we tried to present the facts during the long campaign fairly and truthfully and let the voters make their own decision. Now we are willing to abide by their decision.

In recent issues, we have also discussed to some extent various other events, scheduled to occur in the remaining days of 1948, including Thanksgiving day. Obviously, that is the biggest event of the period and it is rapidly approaching. It is not as dramatic and spectacular as a national election, but, in its implications, it is fully as important and we believe it deserves serious thought and consideration. It is one event which the American people, regardless of race, color or creed, may wholeheartedly unite in observing.

In discussing Thanksgiving day, which occurs on the last Thursday of this month, we have mentioned especially its historical origin and significance. We have pointed out that this annual observance, originated among the people, called the Pilgrim Fathers or the Puritans, who came to this country from England as a refuge from persecution. That they established a colonial government and that Thanksgiving was a religious observance, proclaimed by the governor, in gratitude to God for His mercy and His protecting care. The early settlers in this country had a hard struggle—they were beset by all sorts of dangers, including Indians, hunger, cold, loss of crops, etc.—and they were truly thankful if they survived these perils.

The fact has also been commented on in recent issues that the observance of Thanksgiving has changed to a certain extent during the passing years. It is still a religious occasion, at least, in a formal sense. That is the spirit of the official proclamations which are made annually by the President and the governors of the various states but the observance has changed.

Originally, Thanksgiving was a strictly religious occasion. It was so proclaimed by the governor of the New England colonies and the colonists observed it as such. On that day, when the harvest was over, they rested from their labors and attended church. They assembled in their various places of worship and gave thanks to God for His goodness and His watchful care over them during the past season.

That was the significance of Thanksgiving in the early pioneer days but, as we have pointed out before, it has changed to some extent during the passing years. It is still observed as a religious occasion by many people and church services are held, according to proclamation but, in the minds of many people, we fear, it has become more of a holiday than a holy day. It is to large numbers a day of feasting, sport and amusement, featured football games usually having important bearing on the national championships.

Of course, we do not believe that the American people of the present day should observe Thanksgiving in the same solemn and austere manner that our New England forefathers did. Times have changed and it would be impossible for people today to have the same feeling about the observance as they had. Our forefathers had to contend with conditions and perils of which we know nothing—there was a reality about thanksgiving which it would be impossible for us to appreciate but, nevertheless, we believe that the American people should spend more time and thought in considering the blessings which they enjoy. We of this generation have many reasons to be thankful, too.

The American people should be thankful for freedom. It has been purchased at a terrible price—the price of millions of brave men killed and wounded in battle but we still have it. We are still a free people. We have freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom of action. There are many countries in the world today where that is not true, but it is still true in America.

The American people should be thankful for progress and prosperity. Those are phenomenal—the greatest in history—and no other country in the world enjoys as great opportunities and advantages at the present time. This nation has grown great and powerful and it leads all other nations in wealth, industry, education and achievement.

Let us give thanks!

★ ★ ★

Every American citizen has abundant reason to be thankful even if he was disappointed in the result of the election.

★ ★ ★

A. Stroller writes the editor that he is enjoying himself in the Southwest, but that he misses the old home town.

★ ★ ★

Now the analysts are busy trying to figure out the reason why all their election forecasts were wrong.

★ ★ ★

The important question of the hour—have you got your storm windows and storm shed on?

★ ★ ★

All the big type in the newspaper offices of the country was used up in the election extras.

★ ★ ★

This is a good time of year to take both a retrospective and prospective view of life.

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President Truman isn't exactly a great orator, but he is surely a good campaigner.

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Nobody has more reason to be thankful this year than the people of Nebraska.

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No, we absolutely refuse to predict the result of any kind of a contest.

★ ★ ★

Be thankful whether you have turkey for Thanksgiving or not.



Prairieland Talk — Relief Stores in Picture Often in Struggle to Prosperity on Prairieland

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — Stories come from the far-wrecked sections of Europe of the short rations. America has done much to relieve hunger, clothe the unclothed, and continues the flow of supplies.

An American tells of taking dinner in a section of Europe with a family — father and mother and four children. The dinner consisted of potato soup, mostly water, and bread. One child asked for bread.

"How many slices have you had?" asked the mother. The child said he had three. That was all he could have.

Too bad—the heritage from their once ambitious national leaders. But our own revered pioneers of Holt county and other sections of Nebraska have seen times of short rations or none at all. Pioneers have sat down to a meal of potatoes, and thanked God for them.

A pioneer woman of the Inman community saw no hope for a bit of Thanksgiving feast. All she had was some dried cherries brought from Iowa. All her nearest neighbor had in her home was a little flour and a cup of colored sugar used to decorate cakes with. Their combined resources of dried cherries, colored sugar and a few cups of flour were brought together and the "feast" prepared.

It had been a hard, withering season, famine-haunted settlers faced the dreary outlook but held their heads high. The late Father Cassidy, for half a century pastor of St. Patrick's, secured funds from the Lord only knows where and drove out

through the communities north of O'Neill where distress seemed likely to overwhelm them all, stopped at one needy home after another and left with each a sizeable piece of money, with the encouraging word that help would continue to be supplied.

Relief stores were in the picture more than once in the struggle to find the way to prosperity on prairieland. There was the pioneer woman out on the Eagle who shed tears because she had so little to set before three men who asked for a meal. There was the pioneer woman in what is now the Page community who wept because there was not the price of a stamp in their possession to mail a letter.

There are those today in Holt county who have known the value of a cornbread dinner, and now at four score years retain manly vigor, stately and venerable dignity because of simple living at the start on the highway of life.

Something to talk about, since political "issues" are out of the way, floats in from the sand bars and reefs along the Platte with a 500 million dollar inspiration coasting on the tide. Irrigation schemes and schemers are blooming out afresh. These schemes involve designs on the shrinking waters of the Platte, the more abundant flow of the Elkhorn and what might be left in the Loup and Cedar for inundating eastern Nebraska. Just who will furnish the dough for all this will be a later consideration. In the territory thus envisioned they are now bloated with corn and wine,

which happily shows no need of increased production attained, if it can be, at so heavy a cost.

Measured in service rendered by a lone individual to a tribe of Nebraska's first settlers, probably John L. Webster, a lawyer in Omaha of a generation now out of the picture, stands alone. In the month of March, 1879, Standing Bear, chief of the remnants of the Poncas holding a little strip of country along the Niobrara river, was placed under arrest by General Clark under orders of the War department for the purpose of removing the Poncas to Indian Territory.

This strip of country then to be allotted to the Sioux. Standing Bear and his band were started on the trail to the Territory.

At Omaha a stop was made for a few days when Webster became interested in the rights of the Indians, went into Federal court for a writ of habeas corpus, and secured the release of the Indians from military custody, carried the case further and had their ancestral home in Nebraska restored to Standing Bear and his band.

Lawyers and citizens in other sections of the country took up the fight and brought to the American Indian a constitutional standing before the courts. The Sioux eventually came into possession of the Ponca territory when that tribe consented to go to another reservation. Then the Sioux in turn faded from the northeast Nebraska picture and pale faces have taken over.

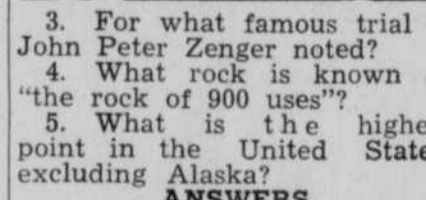
Of the 737,000 stock holders of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., 390,000 are women. . . . For its size, the ant is the choice of nature in the endowment of brains. . . . The pronghorn antelope is the speediest thing on four legs, bouncing along with ease at 70 miles per hour. . . . Truman is 64, Barkley 70. They've been telling us this is a young man's world. . . . Four boys, six girls, Nebraska products all, seniors at Wesleyan university in Lincoln are in the "Who's Who" of American colleges. . . . Gum chewing has become a 19 million wads of gum a year proposition. . . . A painting 16,000 feet long shows the scenery from the headwaters of the Mississippi to New Orleans and had made the artist to date \$200,000.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Worth and children spent Sunday visiting Mrs. Worth's brother, Roy W. Karr, of Spencer. They also visited in Pickstown, S. D.

Mrs. Gertrude Howard left Thursday for Lincoln where she spent a few days on business.

TEST YOUR I. Q.

1. What are the four main islands of Japan?
2. What was the Colossus of Rhodes?
3. For what famous trial is John Peter Zenger noted?
4. What rock is known as "the rock of 900 uses"?
5. What is the highest point in the United States, excluding Alaska?



- ANSWERS**
1. Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku and Hokkaido.
 2. It was a brass statue of the Greek sun-god Apollo, about 109 feet high, built by Charles of Lindus on the island of Rhodes about 280 B. C.
 3. In August, 1735, in New York City, Zenger was acquitted of charges of libel in criticizing the administration of Governor Cosby. The trial established a precedent for the freedom of the press which our country enjoys.
 4. Gypsum.
 5. Mt. Whitney in California, with elevation of 14,495 feet.

O'NEILL LOCALS

Miss Connie Lou Williams spent the weekend in Ainsworth visiting friends.

Armistice day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alendorfer were: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wells, of Butte; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wells and son, Roy Wells, of Padronal, Colo., and Howard Wells, of Denver, Colo.

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Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Worth and children spent Sunday visiting Mrs. Worth's brother, Roy W. Karr, of Spencer. They also visited in Pickstown, S. D.

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