

Inquiring Reporter



The first Thanksgiving day was a day for real rejoicing. To the little band of Pilgrims, it meant something—after years of struggle, they had at last won for themselves a home where they could live as they pleased.

The 1937 edition of that Thanksgiving will be a day for what? Latest model of the Pilgrims' ancestors will probably spend half the day in bed, see a show or a football game, go to a dance, and end up gloriously befuddled in great shape for the week end.

In other words, does Thanksgiving mean anything today beyond the personification of a turkey dinner? Should it be removed from our list of national holidays on the grounds that it no longer performs the function for which it was originated?

Raymond Bailey, Engineering Junior: "As far as any holiday is concerned, I don't think it's celebrated for the purpose for which it was originally intended. Most holidays have come to be merely days off—they have just become occasions when men needn't work. With the possible exception of Christmas, which offers some opportunity for a display of generosity, holidays in general have so changed.

"Nobody ever spends his Thanksgiving day in being thankful, or his Armistice day being glad that the war is over. All such days are spent in leisure, and that's all. "As periods of rest, they do perform a valuable service, but that is about all the function that most of them perform. As rest periods, there is no more reason to abolish Thanksgiving than to do away with any other holiday. Each one is as valuable as any of the others."

Georgene Stuve, Ag senior: "Of course it should not be abolished. It is true that the day has changed, but it has not changed so sufficiently to warrant its being observed no longer. "It has degenerated until it has become just a holiday, an excuse for a vacation. So many people, when they think of Thanksgiving, think only of a big dinner and the family all gathered around, smoking cigarettes in an already too stuffy house. "That picture is all wrong. The fault is entirely with the people, and not with the day or its purposes. The trouble with people of today is that things come to them too easily to be really appreciated. "So many poor people are helped, who would otherwise be forgotten; it's also a good beginning for Christmas. Many times, it is the logical time for a family to get together. It is true that it is no longer a day for mere thankfulness, it has become the holiday of the family. It gathers them all home and cements the family group closer together. "No, it should be continued."

Taylor Lewis, Arts and Sciences Freshman: "No, I think it's a pretty nice holiday to have. It has become a family holiday. The whole family usually comes home for that day. Thus, it strengthens the family, which is the backbone of our country; so it strengthens our country, and should for that reason be continued. "It also provides a valuable vacation—students and other workers are given a chance to relax. It also may pleasantly be anticipated as the day of the big meal. "Althadene Christensen, Teachers college junior: "I think we should continue to have it. College students, for example, are provided with a much needed time out. "Then, there's also the religious angle—the thankfulness. It's true that we've outgrown a lot of that, but it is still pleasant to consider. A lot of our people retain the old attitude—they keep the religious views which made the day; and as long as some continue to do so, the day should continue to be observed."

Max Yates, Engineering sophomore: "It has no purpose any more, it has become just another holiday, and which we could get along without. People just aren't as religious as they used to be—they no longer spend such holidays in the spirit in which they were originated."

Hollis French, Arts and Sciences Junior: "I think it should be continued. Despite the talk of abolishing the holiday, if it came right down to doing away with it, you would find that it has become too much of a religious tradition to be done away with. "It has a great deal of religious significance—it is a religious holiday, and there are few enough of them now, without abolishing another one. The real purpose is still there, it remains for the people of this country to uncover it."

Joe Schwartzman, Arts and Science Junior: "I think it's outworn its original purpose, but there is no reason for leaving it out. Once gone, it is gone forever. Attempts should be made to revive it thru church and civic organizations. "It's purpose is still here, but the public has so far failed to recognize the need for the giving of thanks."

Pilgrim Fathers Entertain Indians at First Thanksgiving in America (Continued from Page 1.) and a few young girls and children to prepare the feast for the 40 odd English men and 90 gluttonous savages. "Fasting at First Ceremony. Yet another account, "Famous

Highlights On the Air

By Elwood Randol.

Campana's First Nighter will be celebrating his eight year in the Little Theater Off Times Square Friday evening when Les Tremayne and Barbara Luddy co-star in a return engagement of Gunard Hjerstedt's show "Broken Melody," one of the most popular dramas ever presented on the broadcast in seven years. The show which is heard on WOW Fridays at 9 p. m., began in 1930 on Thanksgiving night. With its policy of presenting original scripts written especially for radio, the First Nighter productions have built up what the sponsor believes is one of the most remarkable audiences in radio and the broadcast has become a tradition in the NBC Chicago studios. "Broken Melody" is the story of a former newsboy who is trying to become a famous orchestra leader because he was once saved from drowning by an orchestra leader who lost his life in the rescue.

Shep Fields, "ripping rhythm" and all, will soon be heard again over the Mutual hookup. He is scheduled to take the air on Dec. 14 from the Empire Room of the Palmer House in Chicago. The broadcasts will be originated by WGN.

Bob Byron, who whistles, sings, plays the piano and whatnot on Columbia, came running into the studios the other day, so the story goes, and told a receptionist he'd got a great idea. "Go on," said the receptionist, who listens to great ideas all day long. "I found out what to do with my fan mail. It got so bulky I did not know how to manage with it; and I wouldn't throw it out for the world. I like to read in bed, you know."

"Yes, I'm listening." "I'm papering the wall with it." "Uh-huh."

Wrong Track. Margaret Shanna, of Arnold Grimm's daughter cast, does more than watch her step when boarding a train. She always checks with the conductor to make sure she is on the right one. The reason for such caution goes back to the time not so long ago when she was changing trains in Chicago. She got on a steamliner bound for the west with a ticket for New York and had to get off at the first station which was Omaha.

Some instruments. If the music of the La Conga Cuban orchestra heard on the NBC Friday nights sounds weird, maybe it's because the instruments they play are weird. Their instruments are a conga, a male drum; repicador, female drum; a bongo, which is two drums attached to each other; concheros (Cuban cowbells); and the guajiras, the jawbones of an ass.

Two major Canadian radio stations, CBM and CBE, in Montreal, largest population center of the Dominion, are recent affiliates of the National Broadcasting company, having joined the network on Nov. 14. The association of these two stations will make available complete NBC service to both the French and the English speaking Canadians of Quebec.

First Facts. By Kane, says that the first actual Thanksgiving service as such wasn't held until Feb. 22, 1630. The pilgrim fathers had appointed that day as a general fast as no ships had arrived in a great length of time, and the colonist's provisions were nearly exhausted. At a critical moment, a vessel arrived from England laden with provisions and the day was changed from one of public fasting to one of public feasting and of giving thanks. Thus this was the first time that the Thanksgiving observance combined both the elements of feasting and giving thanks.

At any rate, no matter just when or where that first festival was held, it was the prelude to frequent days of thanksgiving throughout the New England colonies. Sometimes such a day was appointed once a year, sometimes twice, and sometimes a year or two were skipped according to whether or not reasons for giving thanks presented themselves. The reasons were usually victories over the Indians, the arrival of a ship, or a bountiful harvest. Since the day was appointed more frequently for the last reason than for any other, August was the customary month for the holding of the festival. In 1684 it became an annual affair in Massachusetts and the other New England states soon followed her example.

Loses Local Aspect During War. It was during the Revolutionary war that the day lost some of its local New England character and took on more of the color of a national festival. The continental congress recommended no less than eight days of Thanksgiving. They fell in April, May, July and December. Business was usually suspended for the observance of the day.

Washington issued a proclamation for a general thanksgiving by the continental army on Thursday, Dec. 18, 1777, and again at Valley Forge on May 7, 1778. The next big boost toward making Thanksgiving a national holiday was also given by George Washington, first as president of the Constitutional convention and later as the first president of the United States.

At the close of the constitutional convention, one Elias Boudinot moved that the president should appoint "a day of Thanksgiving for the favors of Almighty God in giving them an opportunity to establish a government for their safety and happiness." Aedamus Burke of South Carolina did not like "this mimicking of European customs"; and Thomas T. Tucker of Virginia intimated that it might be as well to wait for some experience of the efficiency of the constitution before returning thanks for it. In spite of objections the motion was carried and Washington issued a proclamation appointing Nov. 26 as Thanksgiving Day.

Washington Gives Proclamation. Again in 1789 when Washington was president of the nation he again repeated his proclamation. Several of the presidents who followed him issued general proclamations on special occasions, but it was usually left to the governors of the states to determine whether

Editorially Speaking

Nov. 24, 1937.

Almighty God, Main Throne, Heaven. My Dear God:

Well Sir, Thanksgiving day has rolled around again and the usual inventory of blessings received and expression of gratitude due seem to be in order. I suppose You are pretty busy up there as always. And we keep going down here too. If it isn't one thing, it's another.

I trust the reverberations of the conflicting theories of fascism, communism and democracy have not been troublesomely reflected among Your angels. You know, the problem of power and prestige is always causing a lot of trouble. I remember when you had some difficulty Yourself several eons ago with this dictator crazed fellow, Satan. Of course You know about our Hitler and Mussolini.

It seems that we Earthmen, and Uessians in particular, owe You an apology on the score of Your present labor and judiciary troubles. We unthinkingly got a couple of pretty good wars started, one in Spain and one in China. A lot of men, women, and children are uncircumspectly sent to heaven. Your reception committee has to work overtime and it begins thinking about the wage and hour problem. Then along comes Archangel Michael with his CIO organization to challenge Peter's old A. F. of L. setup.

And that's not all. You have to reward the soldiers on both sides, because after all they're all fighting for a righteous cause. You railroad thru legislation that is in contradiction—understanding under the circumstances—with the 150 eon-old covenant of Heaven to send the soldiers from both sides to bliss. The judiciary begins nullifying Your bills, and what have we? You and Attorney General St. Thomas Aquinas have to reorganize the judiciary to bring in new blood.

Well, as I say, You have Your complications up there. But we have ours too, and we want to thank You for keeping us from each other's throats as well as You do, considering Your own troubles.

Here in the state of Nebraska there is especial reason for gratitude. Of course we haven't had more than half of a normal corn

crop since 1930. We've had some drouth. You remember that morning when there was an inch of dust on the floor of heaven. That was one of our dust storms. And we in Nebraska didn't get our share of the pork from the federal barrel for buildings because the state couldn't match the amounts. And the ten year building levy bill was defeated by our excellent new unicameral legislature.

But, God, all this is nothing in light of what we have to be thankful for. Hoping You won't think us like the Publican of old, we feel that we are incomparably better off than our sister states who have been spending themselves poor and enjoying roads, buildings, dams, parks, etc. Almighty God, we thank You that we are a debt free state. We haven't been softened by the luxuries obtained thru modern financing. And when the other states have their debts wiped out by inflation or freeze them into permanent deficits, and start spending again for more roads and buildings, we in Nebraska will still be untaunted by too much comfort.

For our own immediate situation at the University of Nebraska, God, we are truly grateful. We are grateful that our ex-professors have such good positions. Former Librarian Doane is comfortably situated at Wisconsin and Professor Stoke is enjoying a year of plenty with the FWA, from which we hope he can tear himself to return to us.

We are thankful that the library has not collapsed and killed many of our number. And we are thankful that the majority of students have been so easily dissuaded from an intelligent and intensive use of library facilities which we do not have. Furthermore, we thank You that University and Nebraska halls are disintegrating so slowly over our heads, making it necessary to turn away thus far only a few engineers from the benefits of college education.

Well, Sir, there You are. We won't mention our efficient military department, our fine student government, our active honorary organizations, and our thousands of serious minded students. It's Thanksgiving time and we are thankful.

Gratefully, A Penitent Sinner.

Student Pulse

Elmer Has Some Good Ideas for a Better School

Dear Mister Editor: I read your editorials every day, and think they are very nice, but some of them sound funny. Are you serious about them? Like this here editorial you wrote Friday about the students knowing so much about international affairs that they didn't have to go to the convocation. Do you really think so? I hope you won't think me proud, but I think some students are sort of dumb, and don't care much about it. I like convocations myself, but I didn't go to the last one because I thought the rally was going to be on Thursday, so I went in front of Social Science hall and waited and waited but it got cold so I went home.

I think convocations are swell, but I think that something should be done to give them more action. Like if the students could give yells between speeches and have the band play Hail Varsity as we march out. And that reminds me. We've got some swell yells at Sandy Crust high (that's my alma mater, that means that's where I graduated from) that we could use here by saying Nebraska instead of Sandy Crust high. Like this— Ragadabadiay Ragadabadiay Sandy Crust, Sandy Crust. Rah, Rah, Rah.

Well, I didn't give you the right one, and they sound a lot better when you yell them out, but you see what I mean. I've been reading a heck of a lot about the band not giving as good a drill as other school bands. You should of seen our high school band back in Sandy Crust. We even did wand drills and Indian club maneuvers.

Say, this here Awgwan sure is a dirty magazine, isn't it though. And the Prairie Schooner, oh my. I thought that Celia story was dreadful. Say, who is this Sarah Louise Meyer anyway? The way she keeps writing about the young generation being so different from her's, she must be somebodys Gramma; (Ha-Ha.) Well, my frat brothers are knocking on my door. They want me to learn this new fangled trucking so I can dance to Shep Fields, whoever he is, so I will close.

Yours truly, Elmer Blaine. P. S. Don't tell my frat brothers I wrote you this.

safety and happiness." Aedamus Burke of South Carolina did not like "this mimicking of European customs"; and Thomas T. Tucker of Virginia intimated that it might be as well to wait for some experience of the efficiency of the constitution before returning thanks for it. In spite of objections the motion was carried and Washington issued a proclamation appointing Nov. 26 as Thanksgiving Day.

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Daily Nebraskan

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of congress, March 3, 1879, and at a special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 26, 1922.

on July 15 with a proclamation "for the observance of Thursday, Aug. 6, as a day for national thanksgiving, praise and prayer."

In 1864 Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing the fourth Thursday of November with a view to having the day kept thereafter annually without interruption. His assassination almost caused the suspension of his own plan, but President Johnson was prevailed upon to appoint the same day. Since then the presidents have appointed the last Thursday of November, exchanging the local and variable observance of the early days for one truly national in character.

Thus we may say that since 1865, Thanksgiving Day has been an annual national holiday.

The Psychophysics of Mental Text Difficulty" is the title of an article by Dr. Joy Guilford of the department of psychology which appeared in the late issue of Psychometrika, nationally known psychological journal.

Here's The BIGGEST Thanksgiving Show In Town! LIBERTY Last Times Today! "ATLANTIC FLIGHT" PLUS "He Got His Man"..... of Him!

AMUSED STUDENT. Dear Editor: If Robert Ripley of "Believe It or Not" fame were to run across the following incident, he'd spread it on billboards from Maine to California: Prof. Robert R. Crawford, author of a \$2.70 book used in his Magazine Article Writing class refunded his profit of 40 cents per new text to all purchasers. Orchids to you, Brother Crawford. And, so you'll not think I'm working for an "A" in the course, I remain— AN AMUSED STUDENT.

Year after year she wrote until in 1859 the governors of all but two of the states issued such proclamations. As yet, however, there was no widespread interest among the people as a whole. During the Civil war the custom lagged, and in the South it almost died. Immediately after the battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, Mrs. Hale sent Lincoln a copy of Washington's proclamation and suggested that he should appoint a certain day for thanksgiving. This he did

Starts THANKSGIVING DAY! NUTS! THREE OF 'EM... in the Laffing Riot of fun and melody these All-American half-wits were ever in!

The RITZ BROTHERS IN LIFE BEGINS IN COLLEGE

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GARDEN OF GIRLS "Eight Dancing Darlings"

ORPHEUM

NEWS PARADE

by Marjorie Churchill

Thanksgiving—and the 'Tramp of Marching Feet.'

Thanksgiving is a different story this year in the homes of millions of once unemployed persons who are now drawing regular salaries. Unemployment figures have decreased greatly since the beginning of the "business recession" in 1929. Yet there remain one-third of the persons in the United States, now "inadequately clothed, fed, housed." To these the "Thanksgiving of the Unemployed," written in 1931 by Loren M. Pacey, still holds good. Thanksgiving of the Unemployed. We are thankful, O our God, For light that smoke palls can not quite conceal, For air not yet too thick to breathe; We are thankful for the grain we may not grind, A bounteous harvest we may not gather in. For feet that endlessly, fruitlessly tramp, Day after day To find the lost again For these we thank thee, and for the breath of life, and for The dooped urge within, The hope that dauntless will not let us die.

On This Business of Cotton Hosiery...

American girls in various sections, they tell us, are wearing cotton hose as a protest against Japanese aggression. Labor's two major organizations approve the boycott. Manufacturers of course, running in competition with Japanese imports, add their sanctions. What are the chances for success of such a boycott? The pros and cons of the situation are given in a recent research bulletin issued by the Institute of Pacific Relations. Sales of hosiery will reach their peak within the next month and a half. Hence, the time is ripe for such a boycott—the greatest single use of Japanese silk in hosiery. There would be little trouble in identifying Japanese silk. Virtually all the raw silk used in the United States comes from Japan. On the other side of the scales is the difficulty of arousing enthusiasm among women scattered throughout the United States. Manu-

IN THE INFIRMARY

Jerome Neprud, Verdel, Julia Powers, Lincoln, Robert Chatt, Tekamah, Doris Swensen, Davenport.

facturers, also, would find themselves faced with the problem of machinery which could not be converted for making silk substitutes. Some of the purpose of the boycott would be defeated, since it would be the agricultural sections of Japan which would suffer, and these have had no part in Chinese aggression. Silk, moreover, is not the Japanese life line that it once was. Exports now include manufactured goods to other countries. The boycott might exert a considerable influence on Japan, but on the other hand, unless supported wholeheartedly by persons of every section, it might very likely result in the United States' sitting on the side lines in all the glory of her cotton hosiery while other countries reaped the profits of an increased Japanese trade.

Government Offers Job to Soil Survey Worker

Marion M. ... who has worked on the ... survey about two years has been selected for work in the United States department of agriculture. He will leave Lincoln the end of the week. His future address will be in Indianapolis, Ind.

IKIWA

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