

Holiday plans

Turkey feasts ease seniors' loneliness

"If you have nothing but cornbread and beans, be happy to have them." That, says 82-year-old Mildred Taylor, is what Thanksgiving should be all about.

Taylor has had some Thanksgivings like those, especially during the Great Depression.

"The time I was livin' back in Colorado in the '30s ... it was hard. But we made out.

"Where there's a will, there's a way," she continues. "Maybe you don't have much, but you have to make do."

Taylor will spend her Thanksgiving with relatives, including 14 grandchildren. But many of her friends in the Green Valley Care Center won't be so lucky. For them, the organized dinner will be a welcome relief from the loneliness that would otherwise haunt what should be a festive holiday.

Most of the nursing homes in Eugene and Springfield are having a traditional turkey dinner for their residents.

Senior centers will be actively serving the traditional holiday menu. The Trude Kaufman Center, 996 Jefferson St., is expecting 80 to 125 people for its 1 p.m. dinner today, and will take about 40 meals to shut-in seniors in the neighborhood.

Meal-time entertainment featuring a European accordionist will start at 1:30 p.m., says assistant supervisor Carlton Spores.

Campbell Senior Center, 155 High St., is holding a potluck for an expected 100 seniors. The dinner starts at noon today and costs 75 cents.



Millie Taylor is one senior that will spend the holiday with her family. Not all old folks will be so fortunate, but there are many things going on today and Thursday to help ease the loneliness.

Holiday a turkey for students stuck in town

For the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims and their 92 Indian guests, that first Thanksgiving dinner in 1621 symbolized the accomplishments of survival and friendship.

For us, it's a four-day break from studies and a chance to gather with family and friends to eat as much as we can.

But the holiday loses its flavor for those who are stuck in their

apartments or dorms for the day. Although low-income persons, transients and even prisoners will have their fill of the traditional holiday meal, for students Thanksgiving could be

a turkey.

Eugene's airlines and Amtrak report full or nearly full departures for both today and Thursday, so some students will have to stay put.

On campus, options for weekend entertainment are limited. The Ananda Marga Society is sponsoring two movies: "Beat the Devil" at 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, and "Thief of Bagdad" at 7 and 9:15 p.m. Saturday. The only other organized activity over the weekend is the Oregon-Oregon State football game, Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Dormitory cafeterias and the EMU will be closed for the entire four-day weekend. Though the library is open regular hours Friday through Sunday, it will close Wednesday at 5 p.m. and stay closed all day Thursday.

If you're looking for a turkey dinner, plan on going off campus. The Salvation Army offers Thanksgiving dinner to low-income persons and families and to those who have no place to go. The meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Willamalane Park and Recreation Center, 765 North A, Springfield.

A Salvation Army representative says the dinner is free but help is needed with serving and clean-up. Donations will be accepted.

The Loft restaurant, located on Alder Street between 13th and 14th streets, is also offering

free turkey to needy individuals — people new in town, out of food stamps, or on their own. The Thursday meal will be served from 1 to 8 p.m. Local musicians will provide entertainment.

For people who are just passing through, an additional option is the Eugene Mission, 1542 W. 1st Street. The turkey and ham dinner will start at 1:45 p.m. Thursday.

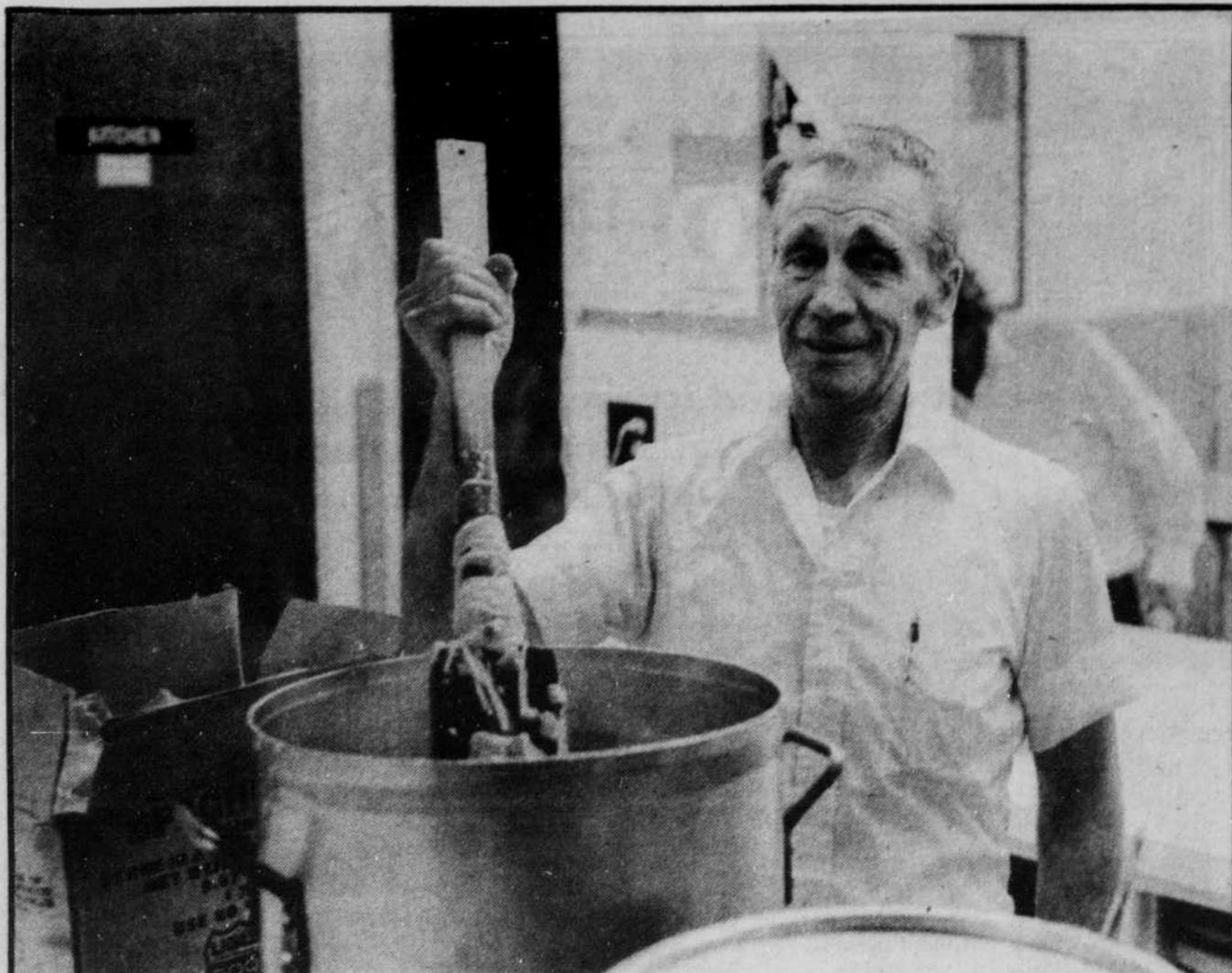
According to assistant director Ron Metcalf, "The Mission is, for many of the men (and women), the only place to go. This is their home during the week...this is a home for those who are always away from home."

Metcalf says he expects more than 200 men and women to come for the meal.

For those dining out Thursday, most restaurants in town will be serving turkey dinners at a cost of \$3 to \$9.

If all else fails, try getting arrested.

The food director at the Lane County Jail says about 235 "visitors" will enjoy a turkey dinner made from scratch tomorrow.



Eugene Mission cook Tom Mason busily prepares the trimmings of a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for an expected 200 people. All

food, including more than 20 turkeys, has been donated by area businesses, churches and individuals.

Stories by
Scott Hall,
Photos by
Peter Dustrud