

Opinion

More room for Christmas?

by Dean Grey
Editor

Greens and reds spread across the way, Santas of various sorts and sizes dot the different stores and businesses, the time is now and now is Christmas. September marks the earliest known Christmas commercial. Soon there will be no room for anything that is not Christmas oriented. Yes, all the holiday cheer is gearing up for that day when children, ranging from 1 to 98, get up as early as possible, which is harder for some than others, and race to the Christmas tree to see what they got.

Christmas. Ah yes, the time for love, joy, peace, and total harmo...wait...What about tomorrow. Isn't there anything special about that day. Can't seem to remember...Oh I know it's Thanksgiving.

What is Thanksgiving? Well, it's an old custom where people invite all the relatives that they haven't seen since last Christmas (no wonder we try to edge out Thanksgiving, once a year is enough) and eat massive amounts of turkey and other holiday paraphernalia.

What happened? Why don't we put as much emphasis on this time of year as we used to? One answer may be that the thought is



out dated; really how long can we be thankful for the pilgrims? I figure about two hundred years is plenty long.

For those who enjoy seeing relatives more than once a year, all two of you, the idea of moving Thanksgiving to another date has been put before Congress. This proposal has benefits for those who may not enjoy the family thing as much as others. It will spread out the visits so they are more easily tolerated, and past fights can be overcome by the Christmas season. The ideal date would be in mid to late August.

Reports say that Reagan has proposed a new reason to be

thankful. Instead of the age old Indian/pilgrim thing he is trying to pass a bill to make it a national thanks to the Iranians for so promptly releasing our hostages in the trade that wasn't a trade.

All this may be a round about way of making a point but I'll draw it together in plain unobstructed English.

Thanksgiving, a time to eat, not a time to give presents, not a time to hunt eggs, just a time to visit and laugh. There is no reason that it should be given any less attention just because you don't personally receive anything more than a lot of food, conversation, and bad jokes

Is it food, or is it thanks ?

by Alberta Roper
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving or "thanks giving" is described in the dictionary as "a legal holiday in the United States...deriving from the harvest feast of the Pilgrims in 1621, by which thanks were given to God for the bountiful crops and survival of the colony the first year of existence."

The words to the hymn "Come, Ye Thankful people, Come" were written in 1884 by Henry Alford, and put to music by George J. Elvey in 1858. It depicts very well that first Thanksgiving Day.

"Come, ye thankful people come," Raise the song of harvest home."

The first Thanksgiving in 1621 was a festive occasion. Roasts were cooking on an open spit; journey cakes were served with duck, geese and fish. Indians came with wild turkeys and venison. Corn bread with nuts and succotash rounded out the feast prepared for the outdoor celebration. These were a thankful people who came from far and wide to sing the praises of God.

"All is safely gathered in,
"All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin:"

Winter proved to be a severe test their first season. Over half of the Plymouth colonists died. But as summer came, hope returned. Seeds were planted. Fall arrived along with abundant crop. A thankful remnant stored the harvest for the second oncoming winter. There were melodious sounds of industry in the air.

"God, our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;"

Governor William Bradford declared a three day harvest feast to give thanks to God for supplying their needs. These early Thanksgiving celebrations were religious occasions for recognizing from whose hand their provisions came. On July 30, 1623 the official day of Thanksgiving was decreed.

"Come to God's own temple come, Raise the song of harvest home."

In 1789, the Episcopal Church dedicated the first Thursday of November as a day in which people gathered in church to pray and give thanks to God. In the early days the church was not only the central meeting place but the central influence on people's lives.

That same year President George Washington changed the national day of Thanksgiving to

November 26.

Later, in 1863 President Lincoln moved the holiday to the last Thursday of November, proclaiming it as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

President Roosevelt moved the date back a week in 1939 in order to lengthen the Christmas shopping days.

Soon we will gather with our families to feast on butter-basted turkey, glazed ham, candied yams, and all the trimmings. Perhaps at that time we, too, can again turn to a more appropriate, more serious reflection of the earliest meaning of Thanksgiving. Maybe we, too, will have a prayer on our lips and an ear tuned to the heart of God as he calls, "Come, ye thankful people, come!"

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Faculty input

Canned food drive

Kyllo urges participation

by Paul Kyllo

Students Activities Office

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Many of us here at Clackamas will be surrounded by family, friends, and food tomorrow, but some of us won't. Many of those of us who won't be having a happy Thanksgiving are our students, our work studies, our advisees, and our friends.

Starting December 1 we can help make the holiday season a little merrier for these people by contributing to the annual student food drive. Canned goods or fresh fruit and vegetables are welcome and can be left in one of the receptacle located around campus. If you can't bring in food but want to contribute, money is welcome. Any money donated is used to purchase

food from local grocers who have extended us a discount for the purpose of buying food for our deserving students.

Checks can be left with Kay or Joanne in the Career Planning and Job Development Center. Be certain to indicate on the check that it is for the canned food drive so the contribution can be deducted from your 1986 taxes.

Tomorrow after the parade finish, the football games are over, dinner and the dishes are done, think about those who you can help and fill a sack with canned goods to bring in on Monday, or write that check and drop off on Monday. Together we can make a difference to the students.

The Print

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