



Betty Kaiser

Every November, I like to look back at the humble beginnings of this place that we call home — the United States of America. This year, as usual, our super-power country is in the midst of controversies of every kind. They include ongoing wars and conflicts, political differences, homelessness, inequality, devastating climate changes and more.

It has ever been so. Nevertheless, we have a mighty fine place to call home.

I love stories of our founding parents and what life was like in 1620 when the pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock in the Americas. And yes, I know that long before the pilgrims arrived, the area had been visited by sea-going travelers from Africa, China, Europe and the Vikings. And we

Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox: Celebrating pilgrim courage, Native American generosity

all know that Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492!

But it was the pilgrims who settled into the land when they arrived on our shores in 1620. They had previously lived in England under religious persecution and moved to Holland where there were other problems. So, off they sailed to the Americas. Now if that wasn't bravery, I don't know what is. Because this was no cruise ship that they were on.

They had planned to cross the ocean on the Speedwell, a passenger ship, but it developed mechanical problems. Instead, they boarded its sister ship, the Mayflower. A freighter, it was not built to carry passengers.

Quarters were tight, food was rationed, the seas were rough, storms caused leaks and weakness in the structure, people were sick and one person died.

It took about 66 days to get to the new world. Their planned destination was the Colony of Virginia but the winter weather forced them to return to Cape Cod. There were about 30 crew and 102 passengers aboard.

After the ship dropped anchor on Nov. 11, 1620, the new settlers had the foresight to write and sign the Mayflower Compact. Some of the passengers were non-Puritans who wanted to proclaim their own liberty. The pilgrims wanted to establish their own govt. while affirming allegiance to the Crown of England. The result was an agreement in which all 41 of the male passengers consented to follow the community's rules for the sake of order and survival. They were off to a good start.

That first winter was brutal. There was no local lumber yard to buy supplies. They had to build crude shelters from whatever was at hand. Food was scarce and there was no medicine to treat diseases like pneumonia. Sources say that at one point each person could only eat five kernels of corn daily.

Starvation, disease and exposure soon killed half the population. Only 53 adults survived that first winter. Fourteen of the 18 adult women died. Weak and hungry, they gave their children food and herbal medicines. Eleven of the 31 children died.

Orphans were taken in by other families. Two baby boys had been born on the Mayflower journey; one died at two years of age. Another boy, Peregrine White was born nine days after they landed and he lived to be 83-years-old.

Strangely enough, the pilgrims had landed in an area where some Europeans had settled in the mid-1610s. An epidemic wiped out most of their coastal population. According to historian Charles Mann, "Plymouth was on top of a village that had been deserted by disease. The pilgrims

didn't know it but they were moving into a cemetery."

Enter Squanto. He was the only living Patuxet tribal confederate member in the area. He had survived slavery in England and knew the language. He taught the pilgrims to grow corn, fish and negotiated a peace treaty between them and the Wampanoag Native Americans.

The arrival and generosity of the Wampanoag's saved the pilgrim immigrants from starvation and death. They welcomed the newcomers and taught them what they needed to know to raise bumper crops of corn, beans and more. Both sides abided by the peace treaty.

So, where does Thanksgiving come in? Well, the religious pilgrims yearly celebrated days of thanksgiving—days of prayer, not feasting. In the fall of 1621, the pilgrims and the Wampanoag celebrated the colony's first successful harvest with venison supplied by the Native Americans. The feast lasted three days and was attended by 63 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. Two years later in 1623, the colonists gave thanks to God for rain after a two-month drought and Thanksgiving feasting became a yearly event.

This year, as we celebrate Thanksgiving and our many personal blessings, let us also remember our foundation. We are a unique, mixed nation of people, laws and compassion—built by immigrants and mutual respect. Let us never forget that we are blessed in so many ways.

Happy Thanksgiving and God bless you all!

Contact Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox at 942-1317 or email bchat@bettykaiser.com



Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

DEXTER-ous Beagle

Martha and Dave have three dogs, but this article is about their 11-year-old beagle, Dexter.

Last summer, Dexter scared them. It was a hot day and he was chasing his tennis ball when he collapsed with a seizure. They rushed him to the emergency veterinary clinic and, \$1,300 later, they were not given a reason why the seizures happened. The health scare may have been a heat stroke from overplay and dehydration. People assume that only humans are susceptible to heat strokes, but so are cats and dogs.

"The incident freaked me out," said Martha. "So, now, when he is outside playing and starts to pant a little bit, I stop throwing his ball for him and guide him into the house. On his way, he has to stop and smell the grass where one of the other dogs just peed; plus, he has to sniff the tree where the squirrels play, then he has to stop to get a drink of water from the fountain in the front yard. Of course, he has to double check that I put his tennis ball on the table on the front porch. Then finally, he may need to go back to the grass and pee one more time before he meanders inside the front door.

"So, because of the whole seizure occurrence, I now watch him a bit too closely," Martha continued. "Like the time he was sitting in the kitchen, not moving, just staring up at the ceiling. I thought the worst. Before I totally panicked, I looked up at the ceiling too.

Nothing! Not a fly, not a spider, not even a cobweb! So, then, I looked down to the kitchen counter and saw a candle, keys, some cheese crackers, a glass, a magazine — back to those cheese crackers."

The word beagle is just another word for "nose" and Dexter's had caught scent of the cheese crackers. He was frozen in front of the counter, not moving except for an occasional shifting of his eyes to glance at Martha to see if she was going to give him the crackers.

"Of course, I did," said Martha. "But, oddly, he did not eat them. He carried them around in his mouth for most of the day and now the package of crackers is lying in the middle of the living room floor, the wrapper still intact."

Now, back to the family's collection of tennis balls on their front porch for their three dogs. Dexter is very picky and will only use one: *his*. With great Dexter-ity, he searches through the balls until he finds his.

Martha explained, "It is a wonder how his nose can distinguish 'his' ball from all the other wet, slobbery, grimy tennis balls."

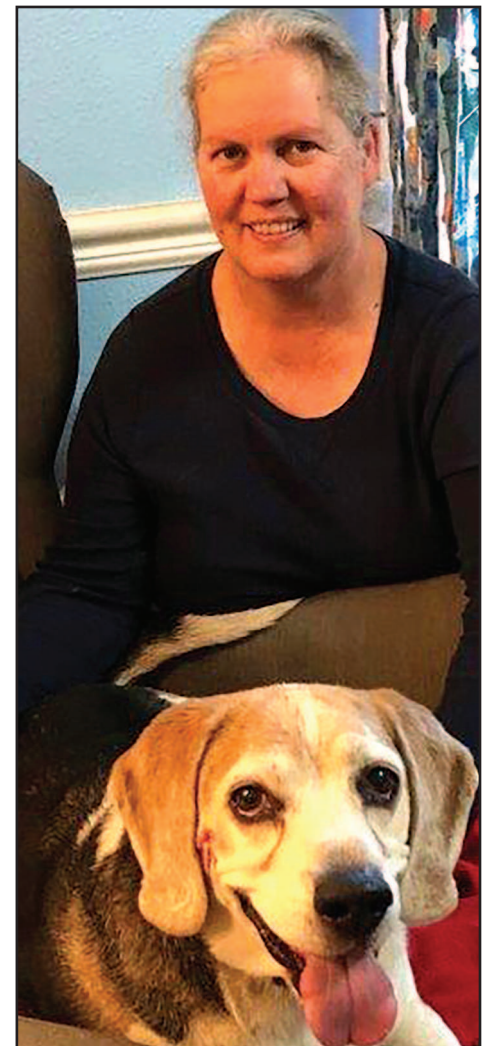
Yes, he has always been an interesting dog. "He was so destructive as a puppy, that we called Dexter the Wreckster and Dexter Do-little," recalled Martha. "Luckily, his wild nature eventually paid off. He is a rodent-ridder who has caught and killed mice, rats, moles and shrews. Thankfully, he likes cats. He lets our black cat, Percy, walk underneath his chin and rub against his side and he just sits there. Of course, it helps if he is being offered a treat at the same time. I don't know how much longer we will be privileged to have Dexter with us, but we will continue lavishing our love on him and he will continue to make us laugh. We are glad that we brought him into our family."

TIPS:

- Dogs left at home alone and in vehicles with opened snack bags may die. They naturally, like us, go after the last few crunchy crumbs and their snout shape and breathing pressurizes the bag to their head. The suctioning is so tight that they cannot remove it and suffocate. Please pass this warning onto other pet owners for their pets' safety.

Tips 'n' Tales reader Joe in Hawaii said, "A starving cat arrived at our home. Her teeth were rotten from malnutrition, so we began feeding her soft food mixed with warm water and she has finally gained weight."

Share your fun, amazing or crazy pet tips and tales at angelscribe@msn.com or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales. Adopt loving pets online at www.PetFinder.com. For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.



Martha and her Beagle Dexter



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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY 48° 44° Rain	FRIDAY 48° 37° Rain
SATURDAY 50° 41° Partly Cloudy	SUNDAY 52° 40° Partly Cloudy
MONDAY 54° 43° Partly Cloudy	TUESDAY 54° 42° Rain

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