

Thanksgiving facts

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

So you know all about Thanksgiving Day-how it began, how it grew, when and why it has changed. Yet, maybe you would like to refresh your memory about a few facts pertaining to this American Family Holiday.

Throughout the ages many peoples in many places have held Thanksgiving days-these days were post-harvest festivals, days for thanking God for plentiful crops. For this reason the holiday usually takes place in the fall, although the American Thanksgiving Day which probably grew out of the harvest-home celebrations of England, first took place in mid-summer.

Although in the United States the very mention of Thanksgiving has for many years called up memories of kitchens and pantries crowded with good things to eat, it was not always so. In fact the first Thanksgiving observance on record in America was entirely religious and did not involve feasting at all. In the early 1600's when English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation, on the James River near what is now Charles City, Virginia their charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God.

However our traditional feast is based on the first official Thanksgiving, which was held in New England by the Plymouth colonists less than a year after they settled in this new land. Their first dreadful winter had killed nearly half of the members of the colony, but new hope grew up in the last spring and early summer of 1621. The early corn harvest brought rejoicing. Governor William Bradford decreed that a three-day feast be held. An official Thanksgiving Day was set aside for the purpose of prayer as well as celebration on July 30, 1623.

It is chronicled that "The women of the colony spent days preparing for the feast. The children helped by turning roasts on spits in front of open fires. Indians brought wild turkeys and venison. The men of the colony brought geese, ducks and fish. The women served the meats and fish with cornmeal bread, with nuts and with succotash. Everyone ate outdoors at big tables."

The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England colonies. During the Revolutionary War, eight special days of thanksgiving were observed for victories. On Nov. 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation for a national day of thanks. In the same year the Protestant Episcopal Church announced that the first Thursday in November would be a regular yearly day for giving thanks. "unless another day be appointed by the civil authorities."

For many years a few states continued having thanksgiving days but no national holiday was established.

However a remarkable woman, Sarah Josepha Hale of Newport, N.H., a self-educated teacher and later an editor well known for her campaigns for women's rights finally persuaded President Abraham Lincoln to proclaim a national Thanksgiving Day in 1863.

Each year after that, for 75 years, the President would formally proclaim that Thanksgiving Day should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November until in 1939 when President Roosevelt set it one week earlier. He wanted to help business by lengthening the shopping period before Christmas. Congress finally ruled that after 1941 the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as a legal federal holiday.

If the U.S. had held to Roosevelt's plan of not always using the last Thursday of the month for the holiday, looking ahead at calendars for the present decade, one can see that only in the years 1984, 1985, and in 1990 and 1991 will November have a fifth Thursday. Roosevelt certainly didn't ever anticipate that Christmas shopping would begin in many places even before November begins. He couldn't have guessed that in some towns, such as in Frankenmuth, Michigan, for example, that huge Christmas businesses would function every week and almost every day of the entire year.

Hopefully this review may have given readers a few more facts about the now well-established, American harvest festival and religious holiday we are celebrating this week on Thursday, Nov. 26, 1981.

1982 Shakespearean tickets now on sale

Mail orders for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival's 1982 season are now being accepted. Members of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association may have their orders processed on a priority basis during the members' only presale period which lasts from November 16 through January 15. Other patrons may order their tickets now and they will be processed in order of their receipt beginning January 25.

Phone orders can not be accepted before January 25, and patrons are advised to call for all orders after that time to be sure of ticket availability. Patrons may pay for their orders this year by using their VISA-MASTERCARD Numbers on their mail orders or by stating their card number at the time they call.

Among the many benefits that Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association members receive are: priority service on all ticket orders, waivers

Crop insurance to be more accessible

All risk crop insurance will be more easily accessible to farmers by a plan to localize the sale of crop insurance to farmers through local crop insurance agents, said a recent news release from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The plan, which should be in effect in all areas of the country by spring 1982, was announced recently by Wayne Fletcher, president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Fletcher said, the use of local agents will improve service and be an added convenience for farmers pre-

sently served by a multi-county FCIC office or county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

He said farmers who have not already selected a new agent by the time the multi-county FCIC offices are closed will be provided with a list of agents from which to choose.

"The choice of a service office is up to the farmer," said Fletcher. He said FCIC will assign insurance filed to local crop insurance agents in cases where policyholders fail to make their own selection. These policyholders will be informed of their assigned agent when the file is transferred. However, farmers

have the option of changing service agents up to the earliest sales closing date for their insured fall and spring crops, according to Fletcher.

All-risk crop insurance policies now are available from agents and agencies contracted with FCIC and from private companies reinsured by FCIC. These policies offer the same protection and cost.

All-risk policyholders have the option to buy hail and fire protection included in the basic policy or to purchase protection included in the basic policy or to purchase substitute protection from private companies, the news release stated.

Oregon Wheat Foundation now tax-free

"Oregon wheat growers have been pioneers once again," stated Earl Pryor, Condon farmer, "and I'm talking about the formation of the Oregon Wheat Foundation and the tax-free deductible status." Pryor is the president of the Oregon Wheat Foundation and is a past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The Oregon Wheat Foundation is the first tax-free foundation started by any of the wheat states, according to Pryor. However, Pryor said, that the National Association of Wheat Growers also has a similar foundation started two years ago. The foundation was started to pursue educational, scientific and philanthropic projects.

The Foundation has already had two educational projects where a seminar was sponsored on oil and gas leasing and another seminar sponsored under the subject heading of philanthropic projects, the Foundation may be involved in scholarships for students as well as grants to other projects relating to wheat production.

It was mentioned that the corporate structure of the Foundation is similar to the OWGL. Earl Pryor is the

president, Stan Timmerman is the first vice president, and Louis Carlson is the second vice president. Wesley Grilley serves as executive vice president of the Foundation.

"We're really still in the organizational status," Grilley said, "we intend to have board representation with farmers from across the state. We need advisory boards for projects and need support from all segments of agriculture."

"It's an exciting new era for wheat farmers," Pryor said. "It's just like when Oregon wheat farmers started the first commission in the United States... and then formed the first market development agency, Western Wheat Associates, in the world... and now the formation of the Foundation shows the leadership what the OWGL has done in the past."

A national farm tax expert, Dr. Neil Harl, said that the Foundation's tax status "is the Cadillac of foundations--you were very lucky to obtain that status."

Harl, who presided at a Foundation tax seminar, said that the Foundation is an "excellent vehicle for estate tax planning and for other areas of tax management."

"These are the first steps of the Foundation," said Pryor. He said that all farmers had great hopes for the new frontiers that the Foundation can accomplish.

"But, it must help not only Oregon wheat growers, but all growers in the United States... we need to help improve markets, prices and conditions for all farmers," Pryor concluded.

Kidney Assoc. launches fund drive

The Kidney Association of Oregon has launched its twelfth annual statewide fund drive to raise \$500,000 in donations and grants to pay a portion of the cost of dialysis for Oregonians in the KAO program suffering from kidney failure. As the campaign was opened, it was emphasized that there is an urgent need for donations to care for an increased number of patients.

The funds will be used by KAO during 1982 to assist KAO's 430 kidney failure victims now on dialysis throughout the state, by paying a portion of the costs involved for the treatment and necessary equipment and supplies. The money will also be used for the same financial

aid for new patients during the coming year.

KAO president Chuck Marx, Portland, said in starting the 1981-82 drive, that "It is extremely urgent that we raise the funds due to the fact that KAO continues to accept more new patients for treatment, and medical costs continue to rise."

Marx explained, "During the past 12 months alone, the number of patients KAO is helping to stay alive on dialysis has risen by 16 percent, from 370 to 430 people."

The KAO president pointed out that it currently costs \$39 per day to maintain each patient on a home-based artificial kidney machine or about \$14,000 per year. He

said that the cost of keeping each patient alive in a center is much higher.

In order to pay for the costs of helping to keep kidney failure patients alive, KAO needs more and larger donations from individuals, businesses, fraternal and civic organizations and increased fund-raising in local communities.

Marx said, "The Kidney Association of Oregon Board of Trustees and staff are using every possible means to raise the needed money."

Marx added, "The people of Oregon have been very generous in the past in supporting the program. Now KAO needs increased help to take care of an ever increasing number of people."

Postal Service urges patrons to shop and mail early

This year, the Postal Service is urging customers to shop and mail early for Christmas.

Postmaster Ken Nairns has officially declared the beginning of the Christmas mailing crunch by shopping and mailing early. Cards and parcels will reach their destinations in plenty of time of the holidays, if customers will start early, make certain that mail is addressed correctly and that packages are wrapped properly, Nairns said.

"Normally, we handle about 6,500 pieces of mail a day -- including cards, letters and packages, but during the holiday season, volume goes up to about 20,000 pieces," the postmaster says.

The key to successful holiday mailing is to mail early and correctly. Postmaster Nairns says that includes planning now for gifts that must travel long distances to reach their destinations by Christmas.

"Many overseas mailing dates -- including those for the armed forces stationed overseas -- occur during this month. Mailers can get specific information on the international dates by calling us here at 676-9630," Nairns said.

"Customers should also take care to write legible ZIP Coded addresses for both the intended recipient and the sender. Since mail sorting depends on the ZIP Code as well as the name of the

TEENS OF THE MONTH

IONE-CHRIS RIETMANN
HEPPNER-CINDI BERGSTROM

A senior at Ione High School, Chris Rietmann is involved with the annual staff and is Student Body President. Chris is also interested in music.

Chris maintains a 3.19 grade point average and plans to attend college in Houston, Texas majoring in Computer Science.

Chris is the son of Gene and Maxine Rietmann, Ione.



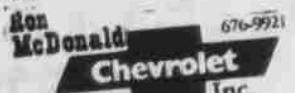
A senior at Heppner High School, Cindi is involved in GAB, Student Council, National Honor Society, Basketball. Cindi is President of the Outdoor Club, Secretary-Treasurer of the H-Club and is the Annual Editor, while still maintaining a 3.69 grade point average.

Cindi is an outstanding student who provides examples to her peers in leadership, dependability and concern for others. She is a good friend to many providing the ability to listen to others and show genuine concern. She has the respect of the faculty and her peers for her dedication to academics, activities and athletics.

Cindi is the daughter of Donna Bergstrom, Heppner and Elwayne Bergstrom, Heppner.



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