



Typical of the scene which will be found in millions of homes Thanksgiving day is this picture of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Clark and two of their children taken at the family home, 827 Park street. Mrs. Clark prepared the table with the symbolic cornucopia filled to overflowing with fruits and vegetables, and Mr. Clark prepares to carve the turkey. The Clarks' children are Tommy, 6, a first grade pupil at St. Mary's school; Carolyn, 4, old enough now to take part in the family feast, and baby Kathryn Ann, only three months old and too young to be in picture.



An annual pre-Thanksgiving event in Medford is the harvest dinner of Zion Lutheran church, prepared and served by women of the congregation. This year's dinner, held November 11 at the church, drew the usual large number of church members and guests and pictured above during the serving are (left to right) Mrs. I. M. Eitheim, president of the Women's guild of the church; Mrs. Martin Westvong and Mrs. James Wicker. The harvest dinner has been held each fall for nearly 50 years by Zion Lutheran church.



Guests began arriving early for the harvest dinner, and pictured above are a number who were seated soon after the doors opened. Since many persons of Scandinavian descent are in the Zion church congregation, the dinner menu featured such typical Scandinavian delicacies as sylta, a jellied veal loaf served in slices; lefse, a flat bread made of potatoes, flour and cream and rolled very thin, and the traditional cookies such as krumkake, fatigman and crown cookies. Baked salmon, ham, turkey and meat balls were some of the other dishes served.



When the Plymouth colonists attended church on the first Thanksgiving day, they wore the severe black, white and grey clothing shown here on four Puritan dolls. The dolls representing mother, father and two children were made by Mrs. Henry A. (Ann) Davis of 429 South Grape street, known by doll collectors in Medford and many other cities for her artistic reproductions. The dolls' clothing is complete even to tiny shoes with buckles, long ribbed hose and head coverings—father carries his long gun and Bible.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1955

Thanksgiving...1955

By Olive Starcher

Thanksgiving, celebrated by people of the United States since the earliest days of the Plymouth colonists, will be observed in Medford November 24 in the traditional fashion. Many will give thanks at church and a union Thanksgiving service is planned for 10 a.m. at First Baptist church, sponsored by Medford Ministerial association.

Families will then gather around the festive board for turkey, cranberry and pumpkin pie dinners, and then spend the remainder of the day by the fireside with relatives and friends.

History records that the first American Thanksgiving day was celebrated during the second winter the Plymouth colonists spent in the New World. The first terrible winter in Massachusetts had killed nearly half of the colony, but the following summer was a good one for crops and the corn harvest brought rejoicing.

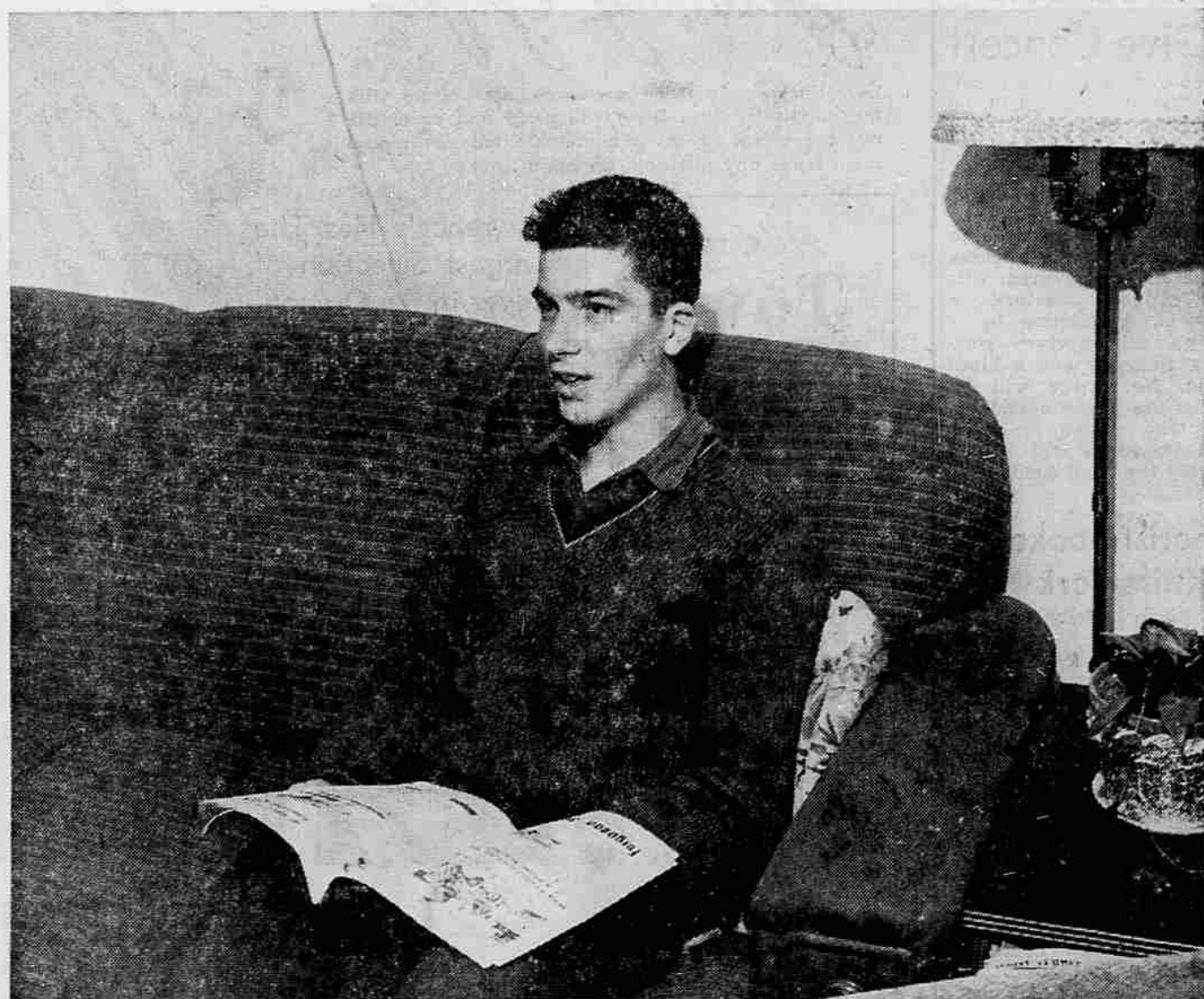
Governor William Bradford set aside December 13, 1621, as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists. It is written that the women spent days beforehand in preparation, boiling, baking and roasting food for the first Thanksgiving day.

Because Governor Bradford spoke of himself and his followers as "pilgrims and strangers upon the earth," the name Pilgrims was given to the founders of the Plymouth colony. The Pilgrims considered themselves extremely religious, and in England were known as Separatists because they wished to separate from the official Church of England.

The settlers were often called Puritans, but actually the two terms are not synonymous. The word Puritan was applied originally to any person who was numbered among a great body of Protestants in England. Some of the Puritans, also known as Separatists, were among the Plymouth colonists.

The symbolic Thanksgiving scene (upper right) is of four hand-made dolls wearing Puritan dress.

(Brainerd photos)



Among the guests at one Thanksgiving dinner in the valley will be Jean Lelut (above), 19-year-old French youth who is spending a year in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor on Old Stage road. Jean's stay here was arranged by government authorities in order that the young man might work with a Jackson county orchardist and learn something of local methods of fruit production. His family owns and operates pear orchards near Paris, growing Comice, William and Passe Crassanne and other varieties which are packed at the orchard.