

Ravenous Indians Joined in Helping To Prepare First Thanksgiving Feast

Editor's note: What happened at the first Thanksgiving celebration 315 years ago at Plymouth? Here, the former counsel-general of the Society of Mayflower Descendants details the extraordinary events that took place on that original Turkey Day.

By DR. GLEASON L. ARCHER
Written for United Press
Pembroke, Mass.—(U.P.)—The Pilgrims of Plymouth had reasons enough for holding a Thanksgiving celebration in November, 1621.

They had survived a visitation of death that had taken half their numbers since coming to America. They had been delivered from Indian hostility. They had endured famine all summer long while desperately laboring to raise a strange grain. That crop was now harvested—20 acres of Indian corn.

Now, in golden autumn days, ducks and geese in untold numbers had suddenly appeared in Plymouth—manna from Heaven for the 25 children and 23 adults of the settlement.

They must give thanks as a people to the God of Heaven, and so Governor Bradford had set a day for the great event—a day of prayer and feasting in the public square of their palisaded settlement. They would set an example for the heathen Indians, and so they had invited Massasoit to be their guest at the festival.

Party of 90
Their impulsive invitation had hinted that the Indian king might bring a few of his close friends to share in their bounty. They had expected the king's

brother, Quaquena, and a few of his chief captains as guests, little dreaming of the fierce competition that would assail easy-going Massasoit for inclusion in the royal party. Massasoit could not say no to Indian braves clamoring for a free meal.

When the royal party appeared on Watson's Hill, across Town Brook, on the morning of the great day, there were no fewer than 90 hungry Indians in the party.

Pilgrim leaders were appalled at their predicament. The wild fowl that they had killed and dressed, the lobsters they had gathered, the bushels of clams that they had dug could prove but a snack for the multitude.

The friendly Indian, Squanto, was sent to parley with the Indian king to head off the 90 hungry savages. Massasoit, however, rose to the occasion like the great sachem that he was. He had come to attend a banquet and a banquet there should be!

Turning to his followers, he made a speech, commanding them to return to the forest for deer and wild turkeys.

"No catum, no eatum," added Squanto, impressively.

For Three Days
The mighty hunters of Pokanoket soon returned in triumph with five slaughtered deer and wild turkeys innumerable. Indian cooks joined their hosts in this mighty barbecue.

When all was in readiness, gray-bearded Elder Brewster rose to give thanks to God. His

eloquent prayer, thanking the Almighty for all his manifold mercies, may have seemed tedious to hungry children and to ravenous, uncomprehending In-

dians, but the prayer ended at last. Pilgrims and Indians ate until they could eat no more.

The Pilgrims were puzzled when the Indians set up their teepees on Watson's Hill that evening. Yet next morning when Massasoit and his braves returned joyfully to the gates of the palisade, the Pilgrims realized

that another barbecue was expected. So there was a second feast.

Again the Indians settled down that night on the nearby hill. Again next morning they returned for a third orgy of feasting. True to their tribal custom, the Indians ate until the last turkey drumstick was gnawed to the bone. Only then did they gather up the mats of their tee-

pees, their bows and arrows, and vanish into the forest.
Thus the Pilgrim fathers observed their first Thanksgiving Day in America and cemented a friendship with Massasoit that was to endure for half a century.

Around Hollywood

United Press Correspondent
By ALINE MOSBY

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Orson Welles is back in town, acting in his first film here in seven years. And he's overjoyed that it's another "short role."

The colorful director and star appeared on television this year, but he has not been on a local movie sound stage since he directed and starred in "Macbeth."

During Welles' long stretch overseas, director John Huston paid him a staggering salary to appear in "Moby Dick" for a 10-minute monologue.

Now Welles is working in his first western, "Pay the Devil," at Universal-International, which he says "is a very short part, too."

Shooter the Better
"I like short parts, the shorter the better," roared the barrel-chested, deep-voiced actor as he straddled around his studio dressing room. "The best parts are not necessarily the longest, but where the people in the movie talk about the character you're playing—and you're not there."

"The rest of the cast is working their heads off for you. In this picture the cast keeps saying, 'He's coming.' When I finally arrive I have only four scenes."

"But not on a horse!" he added. "This is a western without horses, guns or cowboys."

Back to Europe
Welles next will direct "Tip on a Dead Jockey" at MGM. He

returns to Europe in the spring for another picture.

Will he return to Broadway now that he is working in this country again?

"Not as an actor!" boomed Welles. "I could probably brave it as a director, if I didn't have to get on the stage. I've had 20 years of bad acting notices there."

Fans of Welles' directing ("Citizen Kane") are looking forward to his return to that art at MGM. He enjoys directing, he says, "If I don't have to act in the picture, too."

Salton Sea Newest Fishermen's Cove

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — California's newest fishermen's cove is the Salton Sea, located in the arid Imperial Desert in southern California.

The Salton Sea, the state's largest inland body of water, was created in 1905 by diverting part of the Colorado River into a large depression, 280 feet below sea level.

The California Fish and Game Commission has seeded the inland sea with various types of fish and six species now are found in quantity in the water.

The largest found there is the covina, a native of the Gulf of California and much like California sea bass. More than 100 covinas, weighing up to 16 pounds, have been caught during the past year.

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