

Modern Pilgrims



Celebrating Thanksgiving Thursday in Jackson county will be a number of "modern pilgrims"—members of families who came to this continent and country seeking a freer and better way of life than they found possible in their homelands, just as the Pilgrims did who came to the new world in the 1620's. Among those who arrived in Medford in recent years to make a new life and home were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Vermeulen and their five daughters. Pictured in the dining room of the home which they bought on East Eleventh street are Mrs. Vermeulen and (left to right) Eugenie, 17; Sonja, 12; Jeannette and little Teneke, aged 3. Seven-year-old Charlotte, overcome with shyness, could not be coaxed into the picture. Mrs. Vermeulen is a nurse's aide at Rogue Valley Memorial hospital. Jeannette and Eugenie are students at Medford High school, Sonja attends Hedrick, Charlotte is at Roosevelt and little Teneke goes to kindergarten.



Mrs. J. A. M. Leeuwenburgh and daughter, Josca, are planning a real American turkey dinner for Thanksgiving day. The Leeuwenburghs, who came to Oregon in 1957 from The Netherlands, were originally Dutch residents of Indonesia. They now live in Eagle Point where Josca and her brother, Wouter (Walter in English) attend school, and are buying a house and six acres of land. Mrs. Leeuwenburgh, who was a supervisor in a dressmaking school in The Hague before coming to the United States, now works at Bear Creek.



Just like most other, young Americans, Tina Leeuwenburgh found herself a job after graduating from Eagle Point High school and is now a sales clerk for the F. W. Woolworth company's Medford store.



Bert (shortened from the formal Lambertus) Triep, posed Tuesday in the yard of the home on South Central avenue which the family occupies. Mr. Triep, who works for Timber Products company, rode a bicycle to and from work for several months until he could save money to buy a second hand car. Mr. Triep, who came to the United States mainly because he wanted his daughter to have more opportunities and a good life, says he is well satisfied with the education she is receiving and is happy that she can play in the school band and belong to school clubs.



Fifteen-year-old Rita Triep, like other children settling in a new country, spoke only her native Dutch when she came to Medford more than two years ago. In spite of the language handicap, Rita, now a junior in Medford High school, is enrolled in seven subjects, including five "solids", band and physical education, and hopes to enter the University of Oregon to study pre-nursing. Mrs. Triep is the traditional fine Dutch cook and housekeeper and had cookies and raisin cake on hand for callers.



Leonard Vermeulen measures and marks while his youngest daughter, little Teneke, gives the matter her grave attention. Mr. Vermeulen, who is employed by Elk Lumber company, is doing a major remodeling job on the family residence on East Eleventh street by himself, in spite of the fact that he is having to learn as he works. The Vermeulens, who came to the United States in 1957 from The Netherlands, were originally Dutch citizens of Indonesia.



One reason Jim Leeuwenburgh and his son, Wouter, enjoy living in Eagle Point is that they can indulge their love for pets. The household includes Rusty, the spaniel; Bonnie, a magnificent collie and Tom, the cat; the farm animals include a cow called Betsy, a flock of chickens and pigeons. Mr. Leeuwenburgh's chief hobby. Mr. Leeuwenburgh, who managed a plantation in Indonesia and later worked for the government in The Hague, is employed in the plywood mill of Timber Products company. Today's pictures of these emigrant families is in the nature of a report on their adjustment and progress, since in March of 1957 The Tribune welcomed the newly arrived families by way of a page of pictures.