



Today Potpourri is pleased to head her Sunday column with a Thanksgiving sermon written by Louis Cassels, award-winning United Press International writer on religious topics. Mr. Cassels wrote:

The commercialization of Christmas is often deplored, and rightly so.

But there is another religious holiday that has been degraded even worse than Christmas.

It is the holiday that Americans will celebrate with turkey dinners and football games next Thursday.

By force of habit, we still call it "Thanksgiving Day." The name stirs dim memories of a bygone era when Americans thought that God had something to do with the incredible material blessings that have been bestowed upon this land and its people.

That belief led our ancestors to set aside a special day, at the end of the harvest season each fall, for everyone to join in lifting thankful hearts to God.

The tradition has been enshrined in law, so the President of the United States continues to issue each year a proclamation declaring a national holiday for "thanks giving" on the fourth Thursday in November.

The churches also try to maintain the national pretense that Thanksgiving is a day of worship. They will conduct special services next Thursday, as they do every year. But they know in advance that these services will be very poorly attended. People just can't bother to go to church when there's so much cooking, eating and football-watching to be done.

A purely rational creature, transported here from another planet, might find it very difficult to understand why Americans of 1960 are less cognizant of their blessings—or at least, less grateful for them—than their Puritan forefathers were.

The visitor would discover from our history books that the Puritans actually had it pretty tough. They had to scratch their livelihood from an untamed wilderness, and sometimes it was nip-and-tuck whether they survived.

Today, the visitor would observe, Americans are enjoying the most luxurious standard of living that any nation has ever known. With 6 per cent of the world's population, they are consuming 50 per cent of its wealth.

What has happened to America's sense of gratitude? Abraham Lincoln put his finger on the answer 97 Thanksgivings ago. He said:

"We have forgotten the Gracious Hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us.

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

If that diagnosis was true in 1863, it is still more starkly appropriate today.

It is something to think about next Thursday, between the turkey dinner and the football game.

Pondering over Mr. Cassels' words, we asked Pal Peg Tribune church editor, if Zion Lutheran church scheduled a Thanksgiving service, and she answered in the affirmative. We were especially interested in Zion Lutheran, because Mrs. Paul Evensen and her children, who posed for today's Thanksgiving page, attend that church. As organist for the church, Mrs. Evensen is scheduled to take part in the service.

While checking on Zion Lutheran's service, Pal Peg noted that union Thanksgiving services are planned in Talent, Medford and Ashland, and that usually these services are well attended. In addition, 11 churches are holding traditional services. The Medford union service is to be at First Church of the Nazarene, with the Rev. George R. V. Bolster of St. Mark's Episcopal church delivering the sermon.

When Potpourri asked Manager Melvin Hall of the Groceria if we could take pictures in the store for a Thanksgiving page, he said "Happy to have you. The store is yours." Today's front page of The Mail Tribune women's department proves that Photographer Robert Vroman and the Evensen family made out very well on the assignment. Lorraine Evensen is friendly and gracious—Mrs. E. and her two healthy and happy children were the best of subjects.

One line of Mr. Cassels' article rings in our ears: "With 6 per cent of the world's population, they (United States) are consuming 50 per cent of its wealth."—O.S.

**'Spur-of-Moment' Party Is Given**

Gold Hill — Women of Sardine Creek road responded to a "spur of the moment" kaffeeklatsch given at the home of Mrs. Leonard McMahan Thursday, November 17.

At 9 a.m. Mrs. McMahan and Mrs. James Wilson unexpectedly notified their neighbors that "the coffee pot is on, come as you are." The first guest arrived at 9:30 a.m., the last at 2:30 p.m. The hostesses considered the neighborhood social a success.

Those who attended the affair dressed as they were included Mrs. Georgia Lee, Mrs.

Helen Meeks, Mrs. Nora Wait, Mrs. Ivan Governor, Mrs. Jack Deal, Mrs. Robert Arbuckle, Mrs. Melvin Burnette, Mrs. Ogden Kellogg, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. Clarence Parsley, Mrs. Thelbert Wright, Mrs. Dorothy Blanchard, and Mrs. Walter Whitney.

Don't use nail polish remover to take spilled polish from rugs or carpets. Buy some amyl acetate from the drug store and apply a few drops at a time. Then blot this with clean white tissues or terry cloth toweling.

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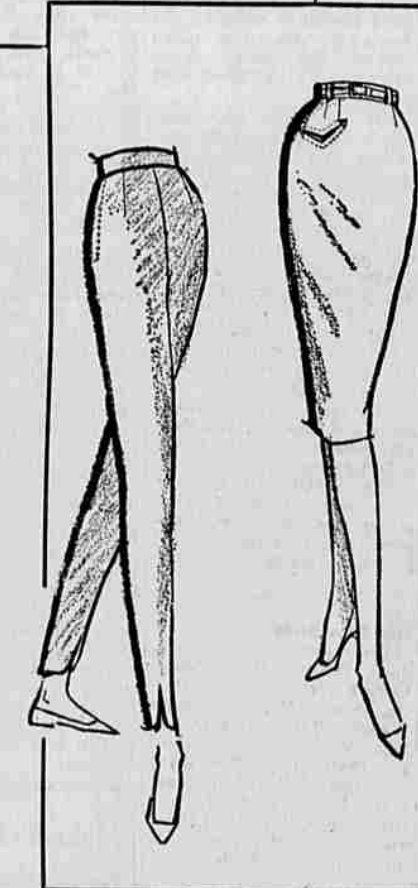
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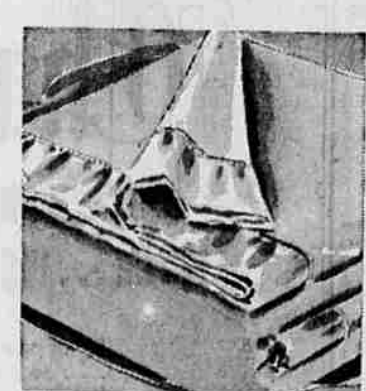
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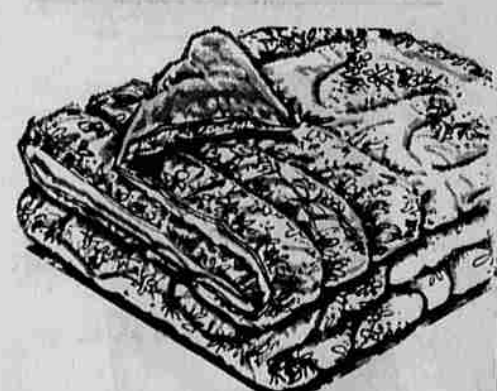
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