



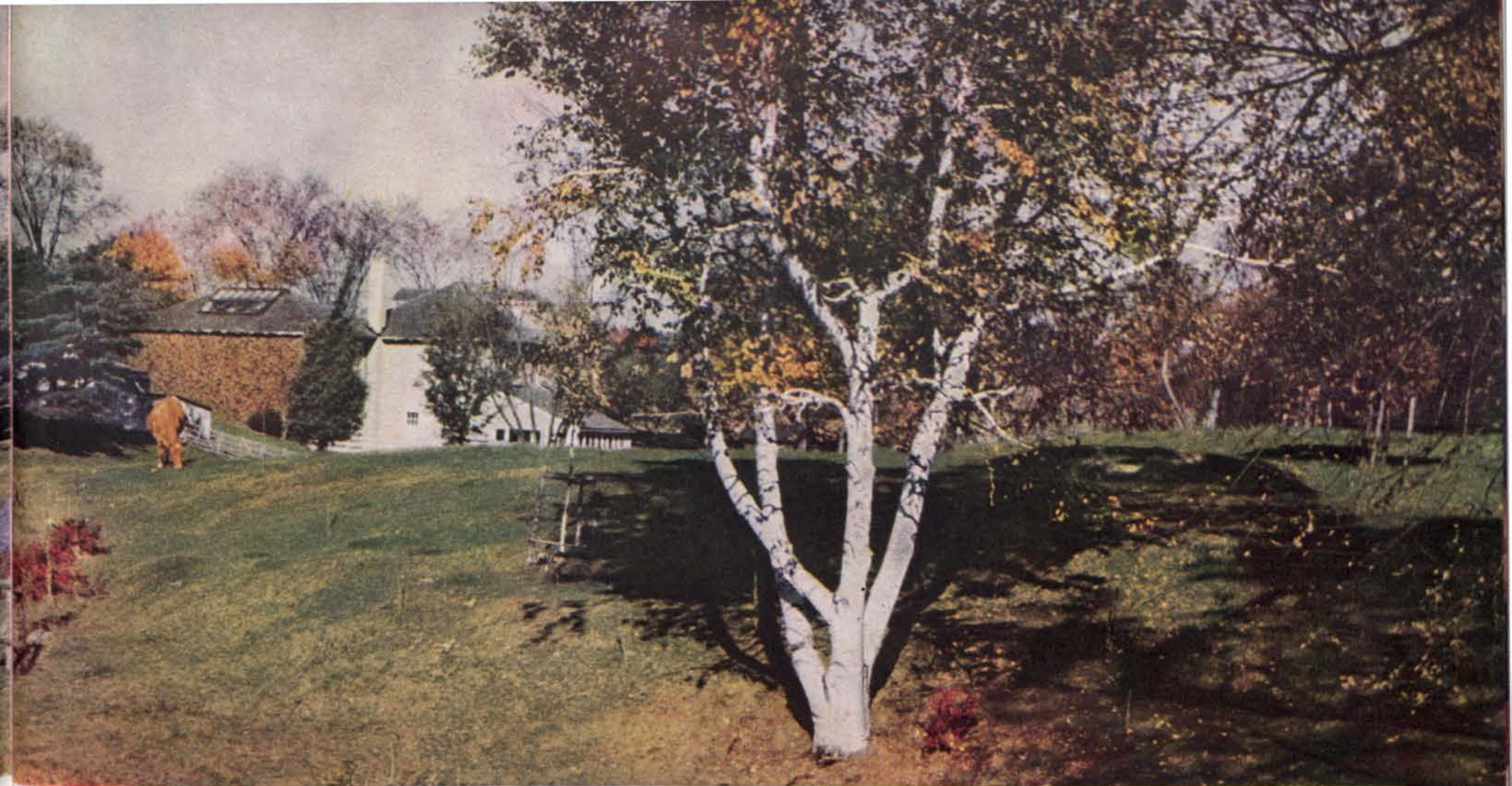
HOME TO THANKSGIVING, Currier and Ives print, helped popularize the holiday.

# WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THANKSGIVING

*By* ROGER BUTTERFIELD

It started as a three-day picnic and Pilgrim sporting event. It has been celebrated—and haggled over—in winter, spring, summer and fall; it finally obtained full legal status much more recently than you think.





**T**HERE is a pretty legend which relates that when the first Thanksgiving was over, the governor of the Plymouth Pilgrims arose, drew his broadsword and smote the empty wooden dish in front of him, exclaiming, "Hail, pie of the pumpkin! I dub thee Prince of Thanksgiving Day."

But this, alas, is only a legend. Historians can prove that the Pilgrims played outdoor games and even did acrobatic tricks with swords at the first Thanksgiving celebration, in 1621. But they did not eat pumpkin pie; or turkey either. The first Thanksgiving feast, though big and hearty, would look strange on American tables today. The principal dishes were boiled eels and venison. There were also ducks and other waterfowl, clams and mussels, corn bread and leeks and plums, all washed down with strong, sweet wine made from the native grapes.

Of course, the Pilgrims knew about mince pie, but they would not have served it, even if they could have found the makings in primitive Plymouth. For mince pie was an important part of the gay English Christmas and a favorite dish of the Stuart kings; in a way, it symbolized all the political and religious institutions which the Pilgrims were trying to get away from. There are historians who will tell you that the early residents of New England made their pies from Indian pumpkins and squashes in a deliberate effort to forget the royal mince. At any rate, pumpkin pie soon became a Thanksgiving necessity and has continued to be so for almost three centuries.

Thanksgiving, as everyone knows, began as a New England holiday, and for more than 200 years it was largely confined to New England and adjacent regions. During all those years it was regarded with suspicion in other parts of the country, and especially in the South, where it was looked upon as a probable medium of sectarian propaganda for the blue-nosed Puritan clergy. When the first national Thanksgiving Day was

proposed in Congress in 1789, two Southern congressmen jumped up and objected—they did not think, they said, that the people had anything to be thankful for in their new government, and even if they did, the President and Congress had no right to tell them how and when to express their thankfulness. And besides that, added Congressman Aedanus Burke, of South Carolina, he did not like "this mimicking of European customs." That was the line that really hurt, for the New England Thanksgiving was then, and still is, the oldest distinctively American holiday.

Despite these objections, President George Washington proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26, 1789. It has been said that the dignified Washington was not pleased with the boisterous celebrating done on this occasion, for he did not issue his second and last Thanksgiving proclamation until six years later, and then he put the date in the month of March, 1795, which was contrary to the New England custom of holding it late in November. His successor, John Adams, appointed two Thanksgivings during his four years in office, the first in May, 1798, and the second in April, 1799. Just why he avoided November is not known, but perhaps he wished to forestall the charge of favoritism toward his native New England.

Thereafter, Thanksgiving as a national holiday almost died out, because of the stubborn opposition of another Virginia President, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson took the position that Thanksgiving was a purely religious matter, and the President had no right to do or say anything about it, since the Constitution specifically prohibits any connection between church and state. This attitude greatly irritated the New England ministers, and as they still had their state-proclaimed Thanksgiving Days each year, they used the occasion to make Jefferson's ears burn. It was

during this period that one New England divine was heard to pray: "O Lord, endow the President with a goodly portion of thy grace, for thou, O Lord, knowest he needs it."

Finally Gov. Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts, an ardent Jeffersonian, hit upon an ingenious way of curbing these attacks. Gerry simply issued a Thanksgiving proclamation which was so long that it took more than two hours to read. When the people gathered at their churches on Thanksgiving morning, the governor's proclamation was read to them first, in accordance with custom. By the time it was over almost everyone had to hurry home to get the noonday dinner out of the oven, and the preachers talked that day to empty pews.

With minor exceptions, Jefferson's attitude persisted in the White House for more than sixty years. Most of his successors rejected as tactfully as they could the various pleas for a national Thanksgiving Day. President Zachary Taylor, for instance, in 1849, just after an epidemic of the Asiatic cholera had swept the country, wrote to a Presbyterian clergyman: "While uniting cordially in the universal feeling of thankfulness to God for his . . . blessings, and especially for the abatement of the pestilence which so lately walked in our midst, I have yet thought it most proper to leave the subject of a national Thanksgiving Proclamation where custom in many parts of the country has so long consigned it, in the hands of the governors of the several states. . . ."

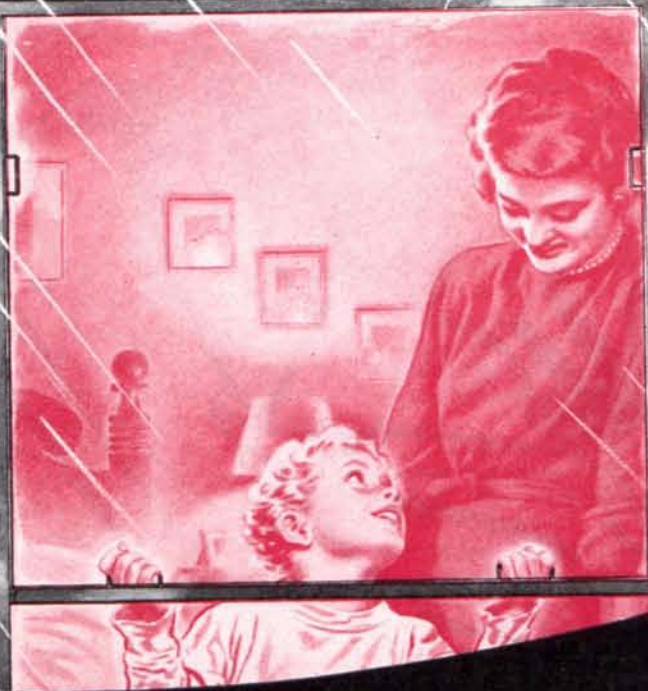
Other Presidents who refused to proclaim a national Thanksgiving included Jackson, Monroe, Van Buren, Polk, Pierce and Buchanan. Despite this, however, Thanksgiving became more and more widely popular as a state and local holiday. A turning point was reached in 1855, when three Southern states—Georgia, Texas and Virginia—overcame their old prejudices and officially celebrated Thanksgiving with the Yankee states of the North.

(Continued on Page 136)

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARTHUR GRIFFIN



HAVE THE *Comfort* YOU WANT...  
THE *Convenience* YOU LIKE!



*Nothing to change—  
Nothing to store—  
Save up to 1/3 in fuel!*

With Rusco Combination Windows—you can have all the benefits of fuel saving storm sash and weatherproofing, plus summer screens, in one permanently installed unit. Self-storage feature gives you assurance that you'll never have to change a storm sash or screen again. You adjust with the weather—never change with the season. » » » By fingertip control from inside you can have year 'round, rainproof, draft-free, filtered-screen ventilation—in any weather, any season. And, the patented Thermolok\* Closure Frame assures a permanent, weather-tight fit—eliminates repairing and refitting.

Eliminate cold zones and drafts . . . Control excessive steaming and frosting . . . Inserts easily removed, from inside, for cleaning . . . Provide protection against prowlers . . . Entire home is kept cleaner, quieter, more healthful.

Up to 1/3 fuel savings pay for Rusco Windows in a few heating seasons. Send coupon for illustrated literature which describes all Rusco year 'round benefits in comfort, convenience, safety and economy.

## THE F. C. RUSSELL COMPANY

DEPARTMENT 1-SE 118  
CLEVELAND 1, OHIO

World's Largest Manufacturer  
of Combination Windows



© TFCRC

\*U. S. PAT. REG. APP. FOR

"Always one step ahead  
of the weather" with  
**RUSCO**

THE F. C. RUSSELL COMPANY  
Department 1-SE 118  
Cleveland 1, Ohio

Gentlemen: Please send me illustrated literature on Rusco Windows and name of nearest distributor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I own my own home ☐ I plan to build ☐

Rusco distributors are listed in Classified Telephone Directories

## WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THANKSGIVING

(Continued from Page 21)

During this period also the firm of Currier and Ives published their famous lithographic print, *Home to Thanksgiving*, depicting a snow-covered New England barnyard and farmhouse, with various generations of the family gathering for their holiday reunion. This picture and others like it had such a powerful effect on city dwellers that upwards of 50,000 inhabitants of New York City alone packed up and went home to New England to celebrate Thanksgiving each year. Farther south, in Philadelphia, one of the arguments used in favor of a nationwide Thanksgiving Day was that it might reduce the annual exodus to New England, which was costing local merchants a great many dollars.

This menace was increased by the flood of nostalgic poems, articles and editorials about Thanksgiving which poured from the pens of New England-born authors. In the New York Tribune, edited by the ex-Vermont, Horace Greeley, there appeared in 1846 a typical effusion addressed To All New Englanders:

*Come home to Thanksgiving! Dear children, come home!  
From the North and the South, from the West and the East,  
Where'er ye are resting, where'er ye roam,*

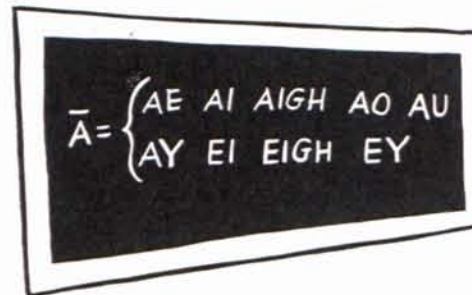
*Come back to this sacred and annual feast.*

*Our pumpkins are golden, as golden can be,  
All ready to melt into delicate pie,  
With a tempting crust, white as the foam of the sea,  
And light as the snowy flake wandering by.*

Far more rollicking and effective was the poem written by Mrs. Lydia Maria Child, a Massachusetts-born author who had settled in New York and was noted for her antislavery activities. Mrs. Child's little classic may well have provided the inspiration for the Currier and Ives print mentioned above—it certainly describes the scene perfectly:

*Over the river and through the wood,  
To grandfather's house we go;  
The horse knows the way  
To carry the sleigh  
Through the white and drifted snow.  
Over the river and through the wood,  
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!  
Spring over the ground  
Like a hunting hound!  
For this is Thanksgiving Day.  
Over the river and through the wood,  
Now grandmother's cap I spy!  
Hurrah for the fun!  
Is the pudding done?  
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!*

In the end it was another New England lady writer who was primarily responsible for the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday.  
(Continued on Page 138)



## Their's Know Cents Two Hour Spelling System

JOSH BILLINGS is said to have remarked that he could spell, all right, but that he didn't spell like everybody else. Small wonder that he didn't—and that a lot of people have trouble putting letters together so as to agree with the dictionary—when you consider the cock-eyed system of spelling that we put up with. Take, for example, the long a sound. Is it spelled sensibly and consistently just one way? No, there are all sorts of ways, from able to straight.

To illustrate this sorry state of affairs, get a pencil and paper, and see what you can do with the following exercises.

Answers on Page 138

- Write five words having a long a sound spelled in the five following ways (one word for each): ae, ai, ao, au, ay.
- Write a word with a group of five letters representing the long a sound.
- Write a word in which the long a sound is spelled alf.
- Write at least ten words in which an n sound is spelled differently in each.
- Arrange the following words in groups which rhyme: blood, brood, flood, food, good, hood, mood, rood, snood, stood, wood.
- Write a word in which u is pronounced like the consonant w.
- Write words in which the sound of u as in burn is spelled ea, e, i, o, y.
- Write six words ending in ough no two of which rhyme.

—ORTH O. GRAPHER.



For those SPECIAL days . . .

**THE ESPECIALLY  
APPROPRIATE GIFT**

for HIM... for HER



**Rolfs** "director" or "directress"  
billfolds



On any day that's a giving day, you can rely on Rolfs "Director" to delight him, the "Directress" to enchant her.

Both have features galore. For instance, there's the secret pocket, registered protection against loss, two pockets for those important extra house and car keys, and pop-out pockets for passes and photos. Both billfolds are slim, smartly styled. Each is Nylon-stitched, to hold its graceful shape for the life of the fine leather itself.

So, to give real pleasure, give Rolfs. And, for your own satisfaction, get Rolfs. At better stores, everywhere.

**Rolfs**

... 330 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY  
Division of Amity Leather Products Company

while you're  
shopping

See the ladies' handbags, the famous Registered "Key Kaddy," the fabulous "Signature" Billfold, the automatic top "Fit-All" Travel Kits... all by Rolfs, for men and women.

- A "Director" in Iceland Grained Seal \$12.50. Packed in beautiful jewelry gift box.  
B "Director" in Smooth Cowhide \$5. Others in assorted colors and leathers to \$35.  
C "Directress" in fine Morocco-grained leather, \$5. Others in assorted colors and leathers, to \$15.  
All prices plus tax.

(Continued from Page 136)

Her name was Sarah Josepha Hale, and she was the author of a poem which every American child still learns by heart—Mary Had a Little Lamb. In the years before and after the Civil War she was widely known as the editor of the most famous women's magazine in the country, Godey's Lady's Book.

When Mrs. Hale moved to Philadelphia to work for Godey's she was shocked to discover that Thanksgiving was almost entirely ignored in that city. In 1847 she began a crusade in her own editorial columns for a nationwide Thanksgiving Day to be held on the last Thursday of each November. "Then," she wrote, "though the members of the same family might be too far separated to meet around one festive board, they would have the gratification of knowing that all were enjoying the blessings of the day."

In the year before Mrs. Hale began her campaign, twenty-one of the twenty-nine states then existing observed Thanksgiving with an official proclamation. Five years later the number had increased to twenty-nine states out of thirty-one. By 1859 the embattled editress was able to report that thirty states and at least three territories celebrated Thanksgiving in unison.

Mrs. Hale did not confine herself to writing editorials. Year after year she bombarded influential public figures—governors, mayors, college presidents, editors and judges—with personal letters about Thanksgiving. It was her custom to write to each new President on the subject as soon as he took office.

When the Civil War broke out she did not cease her efforts, but redoubled them. If Thanksgiving were a national holiday, she argued, it would constitute one more bond to hold the Union together. In the September, 1863, issue of Godey's she published a shrewdly worded editorial along this line:

Would it not be of great advantage socially, nationally, religiously, to have the day of our American Thanksgiving positively settled? Putting aside the sectional feelings . . . would it not be more noble, more truly American, to become nationally in unity when we offer to God our tribute of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the year?

Taking this view of the case, would it not be better that the proclamation which appoints Thursday, the twenty-sixth of November (1863) as the day of Thanksgiving for the people of the United States of America should, in the first instance, emanate from the President of the Republic—to be applied by the governors of each and every state, in acquiescence with the chief executive adviser?

Bear in mind that 1863 was the year of Gettysburg and Vicksburg and the New York City draft riots—a year of bloodshed and battle, of suffering in both North and South. Yet President Lincoln agreed with Mrs. Hale that the United States had much to be thankful for that year. Her editorial was sent to him, probably with a personal letter from her, and he must have read it with deep interest. For within a few weeks a proclamation issued from the White House which did indeed set Thursday, November twenty-sixth, "as a day of Thanksgiving and praise for our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

This first proclamation by Lincoln marked the beginning of our modern national Thanksgiving Day. Its simple yet beautiful language has never been improved upon:

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail

to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship. . . . Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. . . .

This 1863 Thanksgiving Day was marked in the North by further rejoicing over the great Union victory at Lookout Mountain, which occurred the day before. But some Northerners were still not satisfied. The newspapers complained that poultry was scarce and far too high in price—turkeys cost fourteen to sixteen cents a pound at retail in New York City, and geese brought eight to eleven cents. And "As a general thing," grumbled the New York Tribune, "the birds are not fat."

Although Thanksgiving Day is now an American institution, there are certain historical puzzles about it which will probably never be wholly solved. Why did the Plymouth Pilgrims, for instance, hold such a gay Thanksgiving feast to mark their first harvest in the New World—and then, so far as the records show, fail to hold another for nearly fifty years? And how did the day come to acquire its present semireligious character, though the first Thanksgiving, as far as can be ascertained, had no religious purpose whatever?

In 1622, less than two years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, there appeared in London a slender little book with a long title, A Relation, or Journal, of the Beginnings and Proceedings of the English Plantations settled at Plymouth, in New England. The author was listed as one G. Mourt, who has never been identified, but present-day scholars believe it was really written by William Bradford and Edward Winslow, the two principal men of the Plymouth colony. Their obvious intention was to attract as many settlers as possible.

This early book is our principal source on the origin of Thanksgiving Day. The

(Continued on Page 140)

Answers to  
Their's Know Cents Two  
Hour Spelling System

(The words given here fulfill the conditions on Page 136. You may have listed others that are equally correct.)

1. Gael, wait, gaol, gauge, bay.
2. Weighed or inveighed.
3. Halfpenny.
4. Handsome, gnat, demijohn, knot, banns, mnemonics, pneumatic, comptroller, Lincoln, demesne, glisten.
5. Blood, flood. Brood, food, mood, rood, snood. Good, hood, stood, wood.
6. Penguin or suave.
7. Earth, fern, firm, word, myrrh.
8. Bough, cough, hiccough, rough, though, through.

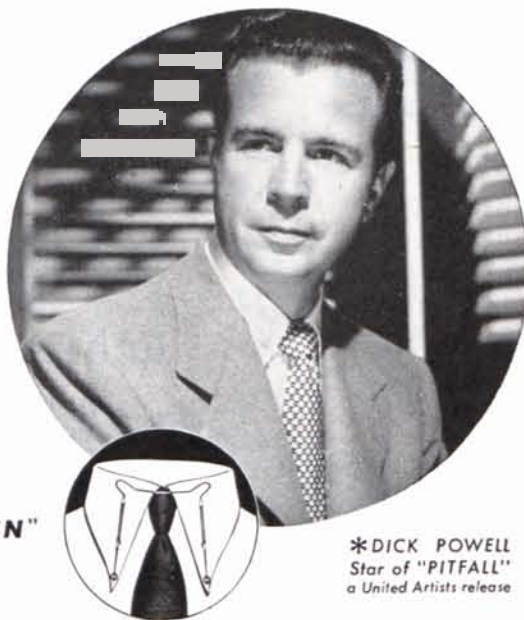


# Dick Powell\*

WELCOMES YOU TO THE

## Spiffy "Secret Circle"

OF COLLAR "STAY-DOWN"  
SMARTNESS



\*DICK POWELL  
Star of "PITFALL"  
a United Artists release

ON THE SET or off, aviation enthusiast DICK POWELL is one of Hollywood's best dressed stars. His "secret" weapon against collar-wilting klieg lights is a SPIFFY Invisible Collar "Stay-Down."

Yes, Spiffy keeps collar points down and wrinkle-free all day long. It's an invisible wonder that's featherweight for soft-collar comfort.

Dick Powell, Guy Lombardo, Harry Wismer and scores of other prominent men invite you to join the "Spiffy Secret Circle"—to share their secret of that successful look. Just slip on a Spiffy!



Self-adjustable to all collar lengths.  
Standard Spiffy, 25c . . . deluxe 24 kt.  
electro gold plated Spiffy, 50c

**Spiffy**  
INVISIBLE

COLLAR "STAY-DOWN"

At men's wear, department, drug, cigar and variety stores everywhere  
CREST SPECIALTY, 663 W. Washington St., Chicago 6

## Fix it quick with Miracle!

The amazing adhesive described in Reader's Digest—MIRACLE Black Magic Adhesive is more than just a glue. Bonds metal, tile, glass, rigid plastics, brick, etc. No heat or pressure needed. Waterproof. Thousands of uses in homes, shops, cars, boats. At dealers and chain stores everywhere. MIRACLE Adhesives Corporation, 214 East 53rd St., New York 22, N. Y. In Canada: 2040 Victoria St., Montreal



LONG  
DISTANCE



Call us for quick, safe moving to any part of the nation. Trained personnel. Modern vans! Get our estimate on packing, moving and storage.

Erases single letters



ASK FOR No. 534-T IF YOU PREFER KLENZO WITH BRUSH

**RED DEVIL GLASS CUTTERS**

at dealers everywhere!

**Red Devil Tools**



(Continued from Page 138)

Pilgrims, it will be remembered, had left the Mayflower and landed, 102 strong, on December 21, 1620. During their first winter, disease and hardship had reduced their number by one half—to fifty-one men, women and children. But by the end of their first summer they had managed to create a little village with seven private houses and four public buildings; they were engaged in a profitable beaver trade with the Indians, and their crops looked reasonably good. Here we will let Mourt's Relation pick up the story, just as it was told to contemporary stay-at-homes in England:

We set the last Spring some twentie Acres of Indian Corne, and sowed some six Acres of Barly and Pease, according to the manner of the Indians, we manured our ground with herings or rather Shadds, which we have in great abundance, and take with great ease at our doores. Our Corne (wheat) did prove well, & God be prayesed, we had a good increase of Indian-Corne, and our Barly indifferent good, but our Pease not worth the gathering. . . .

Our harvest being gotten in, our Governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a more speciall manner rejoyce together; they foure in one day killed as much fowle as some ninetie men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour and upon the Captaine, and others. And although it be not alwayes so plentifull, yet by the goodnesse of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie. . . .

This, then, was the first Thanksgiving—a three-day picnic and sporting event, with the emphasis on food, fun and the "exercise of Armes." This last was highly important, considering that Massasoit's ninety Indian braves could probably have wiped out the little group of Pilgrims then and there, if they had felt like it. Undoubtedly the festivities were held out of doors, for there were no buildings in Plymouth that would hold 141 people. And the large attendance of Indians would indicate that there was something there which attracted them more strongly than deer meat or eels. Could it be that on this happy occasion the Pilgrims broke out their precious supply of what they called "comfortable warm water"—that is, Holland gin?

Perhaps it was the unexpected influx of so many Indians on this occasion that discouraged the residents of Plymouth from holding another autumnal celebration until 1668, nearly half a century after the first one. In the meantime, however, the idea of thanksgiving "holy days" had taken strong hold in the neighboring Puritan colony of Massachusetts Bay, which included Boston. The first public Thanksgiving there took place on July 8, 1630, but it had nothing to do with harvests or feasting. There was another in February, 1631, and a third in October of the same year to celebrate the safe arrival of Governor Winthrop's wife and children from England. The first Puritan Thanksgiving which bears any apparent relation to our present holiday was proclaimed in October, 1632, in honor of a bountiful harvest. Thereafter, for fifty years or so, the Massachusetts Bay colonists held a Thanksgiving about every two years. These holidays celebrated all kinds of events beside the harvest—in 1632 the Puritans gave thanks for Protestant victories in Germany, in 1637 for their own triumphs over the Pequot Indians, and in 1689 for the accession of William and Mary in England.

The Puritans were more closely governed by their clergy than the early Pilgrims, and their Thanksgiving, at least officially, took on a more somber cast.

The earliest known Thanksgiving proclamation, dated at Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1676, accurately reflects the Puritan conception; it reads, in part, as follows:

The holy God having by a long and Continued Series of his Afflictive dispensations in and by the present Warr with the Heathen Natives of this land, written and brought to pass bitter things against his own Covenant people in this wilderness, yet . . . having remembered his Footstool in the day of his sore displeasure against us for our sins, with many singular Intimations of his Fatherly Compassion and regard: reserving many of our Towns from Desolation Threatend, and attempted by the Enemy. . . . It certainly bespeaks our positive Thankfulness, when our Enemies are in any measure disappointed or destroyed: and fearing . . . we should be found an Insensible people, as not standing before him with

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## THANKSGIVING SONNET

By Herbert Merrill

Let us be thankful for  
unchanging things:  
For green hills sleeping in a  
skin of grass,  
For spring returning with a flash  
of wings,  
For winter nights as clear as  
window glass  
Set in a frame of sky for  
everyone  
To see the silver stars. Let us  
remember  
Gladly the great promise of the  
sun,  
That walks a golden road in  
gray November  
And scatters brightness  
everywhere to show,  
Though winter comes, it will  
not last always.  
Let us rejoice in all the good we  
know  
That flows forever through our  
nights and days,  
Stemming its steady way from  
God above—  
A river broad as faith and deep as  
love.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thanksgiving, as well as lading him with our Complaints in the time of pressing Afflictions: The COUNCIL have thought meet to appoint and set apart the 29th day of . . . June (1676), as a day of Solemn Thanksgiving and praise to God for such his goodness and Favour. . . .

Despite many similarly grave proclamations, however, the story of the first jolly celebration at Plymouth persisted everywhere and helped influence the evolution of the typical New England Thanksgiving, with its combination of prayer and play, churchgoing and heavy eating, and sentimental family reunions. It became customary, on the eve of this holiday, for at least three generations of a family to gather at the farmhouse of the family patriarch. Rising by candlelight, the whole family would breakfast heartily on fried chicken and then set out for church, leaving the dinner meats and poultry slowly roasting in the great brick oven. The sermon, starting at nine, often lasted until eleven, but by twelve the group was home and ready for the big event of the day.

Every respectable Thanksgiving dinner included turkey, beef, pork and pigeon pie, the latter being an indispensable

(Continued on Page 142)





## a better Shirt

Picture yourself in a PERFECTO! Any way you look at this shirt you'll focus on the smoothly tailored "contour shoulder", the smart, well-turned cuffs. Six favorite collar styles. Your choice in whites, solid colors and a variety of popular patterns. Sanforized\*, of course.

\*Fabric shrinkage less than 1%.



by  
*Rice-Stix*



KERRY KUT  
SHORTS  
for men & boys

Other men's and boys' wear  
manufactured by Rice-Stix



KERRY KNIGHT  
PAJAMAS  
for men



BOY BLUE SHIRTS  
for boys



BOY BLUE PAJAMAS  
for boys



PADDLE & SADDLE  
SPORT SHIRTS  
for men & boys



RICE-STIX

Manufacturers • St. Louis

(Continued from Page 140)

ble holiday dish in colonial times. Every year huge flocks of wild pigeons lighted in the buckwheat fields, and the farmers caught thousands of them in traps by using a decoy bird. Fattened on grain, they at last entered a Thanksgiving dish which was celebrated by our ancestors in a daring paraphrase of one of their favorite hymns:

*When I can read my title clear  
To mansions in the skies,  
I'll bid farewell to every fear  
And live on pigeon pies.*

Side by side with these observances, there grew up a tradition of sports and gambling which clearly foreshadowed the Thanksgiving football carnivals of today. Thanksgiving eve was a great time for village raffles. Each turkey, goose or chicken left over from the holiday sales was ticketed with a certain number of chances. A dice box, two dice, and three throws per sixpence completed the deal, and the high thrower took the bird.

"The proprietor of the raffle . . . had little tricks of his own," writes a historian of the period. "Sometimes he loaded up a turkey, fair to the eye but sinewy in flesh, with many high-priced chances. Geese, rotund in figure but rank and fishy from self-fattening on the minnows of their natal pond, were another form of his deceit; and he had a true Yankee trick of . . . disposing of his toughest fowls when the frenzy ran highest."

Another sport was the live-turkey shoot, which was held on Thanksgiving morning, and was therefore severely frowned upon by the clergy. The doomed fowls were tied to blocks of wood called "stools," and the rule was that as long as they could "stand up or fly a rod," the shooting must continue. The birds offered by the promoter were often elderly, with flesh of iron, and sometimes it took fifteen to twenty firings to bring them down.

The American Revolution was a great popularizer of Thanksgiving, for soldiers from all parts of the country came to New England and had a chance to observe the holiday at first hand. Not long after the Battle of Bunker Hill, in 1775, the following order issued from the headquarters of Gen. George Washington, at Cambridge: "The Honorable the Legislature of this Colony having seen fit to set apart Thurs-

day the 23d of November Instant, as a day of public thanksgiving . . . The General therefore commands that day to be observed with all the Solemnity directed by the Legislative Proclamation." Later in the war, after much hard fighting, General Washington gave his tired troops something specific to be grateful for. For Thanksgiving Day in 1782, he announced, a gill of West India rum and two shirts per man would be distributed throughout the army.

One of the tastiest descriptions of an old-time Thanksgiving dinner is contained in a letter which a young Massachusetts girl, Juliana Smith, wrote to her cousin Betsy in 1779, while the Revolution was on:

Of course we could have no Roast Beef. None of us have tasted Beef this three years back as it all must go to the Army, & too little they get, poor fellows. But, Mayquittymaw's Hunters were able to get us a fine red Deer, so that we had a good haynch of Venisson on each table. These were balanced by huge Chines of Roast Pork. Then there was one big Roast Turkey & a Goose, & two big Pigeon Pasties. . . . Neither Love nor Money could buy Raisins, but our good red cherries dried without the pits did almost as well, & happily Uncle Simeon still had some spices in store. . . . The Pumpkin Pies, Apple Tarts & big Indian Puddings lacked for nothing save Appetite by the time we had got around to them.

Of course we had no Wine . . . & indeed, good Cider is a sufficient Substitute. There was no Plumb Pudding, but a boiled Suet Pudding, stirred thick with dried Plumbs & Cherries answered the purpose. . . . There was an abundance of good Vegetables of all the old Sorts & one which I do not believe you have yet seen. Uncle Simeon had imported the Seede from England just before the War began & only this Year was there enough for Table use. It is called Sellery & you eat it without cooking.

And so, in the midst of our war for freedom, a new Thanksgiving delicacy first appeared on American tables.

Being, by and large, an optimistic people, Americans are perennially grateful for something. That is, I think, one of the principal reasons for the growth and popularity of Thanksgiving Day. The Plymouth Pilgrims, as we have seen, rejoiced over their big crop of corn and their friendship with the Indians. Their neighbors in Massachusetts Bay and the Dutch colony of New Netherland—now New York—were just as thankful because they were able to kill off the Indians as fast as they found them.

(Continued on Page 144)



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



# COMPARE VENUS

THE NEW \$3.50

**Hooded Pen**

WITH ANY OTHER PEN  
AT ANY PRICE!

ONLY  
**\$3.50**  
No Tax

*Quick Dry!*

**NO BLOTTER NEEDED**  
Uses quick-drying ink (writes dry) or regular ink. Exclusively designed.

*Instant Starting!*

Patented ink control under hood, keeps the 14 Karat gold point moist—for instant touch and flow!

## VENUS



Give Him a  
New Model  
**WISE-GRIP**  
WRENCH

The World's  
Most POWERFUL  
Most USEFUL  
Most COMPLETE  
Hand Tool!

Every man will be thrilled to receive a New Model VISE-GRIP! For never before has so much usefulness been packed into a single hand tool. Wonderful for countless regular and "impossible" jobs about the home, shop, factory, farm and for the sportsman. Adjusts to plier action or LOCKS to the work with Ton-Grip! The New VISE-GRIP has important added features: INVOLUTE JAW CURVE gives even greater gripping, all shapes. KNURLED JAW TIPS hold to the very tip, THIN NOSE gets into close quarters. WIRE CUTTER cuts wire and small bolts. Opens easier from locked position. Made of finest alloy steel. Nickel plated. Guaranteed.

With Cutter—7", \$2.25; 10", \$2.50. Without Cutter—7", \$1.85; 10", \$2.25. If your dealer doesn't have it, order direct. Postage paid if price accompanies order. Get yours now.

PETERSEN MFG. CO., Dept. S-11, DeWitt, Nebr.

(Continued from Page 142)

When President Washington, in 1789, defied Congressional protests and proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day, he suggested that Americans should be thankful for the adoption of the new Constitution and the successful conclusion of the war with England. In his second proclamation he mentioned the defeat of the Whisky Rebels in Western Pennsylvania as an event worth celebrating.

Other Presidents followed his example. Madison cited the great victory in the Battle of New Orleans. Lincoln, as we have seen, expressed gratitude that no foreign power had attacked the United States while it was engaged in civil war. Andrew Johnson's four proclamations stressed the end of the war and the blessings of peace. Grant discovered a new cause for "heartly thanks" in 1876—the flood of immigration by "people of every race" which was then pouring into the country. His successor, Rutherford B. Hayes, rejoiced that there had been "no disasters or shipwrecks upon our coasts" during the preceding year. Grover Cleveland was the first to refer to the "reunion of families" and "social intercourse of friends" as a subject for special thanksgiving.

Coming down to more recent times, Vermont-born Calvin Coolidge summed up the official attitude in four terse sentences: "We have been a most favored people. We ought to be a most generous people. We have been a most blessed people. We ought to be a most thankful people." Herbert Hoover, in 1929, mentioned "new revelations of scientific truth," and stated, "The fruits of industry have been of unexampled quantity and value. Both capital and labor have enjoyed an exceptional prosperity." This was rather unfortunate, for the great Wall Street crash was then in full swing.

No President since Jefferson stirred up so much Thanksgiving controversy as Franklin D. Roosevelt. His early proclamations contained some sharp

references to his political enemies—"May we ask guidance in more surely learning the ancient truth that greed and selfishness and striving for undue riches can never bring lasting happiness or good"—and some high praise for his own New Deal—"The future of many generations of mankind will be greatly guided by our acts in these present years. We hew a new trail."

Then, in 1939, Roosevelt announced that he would set Thanksgiving on the third instead of the fourth Thursday in November, a move which had been advocated by some businessmen in order to lengthen the Christmas shopping season. This was not much of an innovation when one remembers that the day has jumped all over the calendar in the last 300 years and has been held in at least eight different months. However, twenty-three of the states refused to observe Roosevelt's "New Deal Thanksgiving." Texas and Colorado decided to have two Thanksgivings.

Despite the uproar, F.D.R. stuck to the third Thursday date in 1940 and 1941. But when he found that the change did not seem to be helping the department stores very much, he returned, in 1942, to the fourth Thursday. In the meantime, Congress had passed a joint resolution officially tethering Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday of each November. This congressional action made Thanksgiving a legal national holiday for the first time, as all previous national observances had been held only at the request and suggestion of the President.

Thus it came about that, 320 years after the Pilgrims held the first one, Thanksgiving finally achieved full legal status. By popular agreement it is a day which is devoted neither to unbroken solemnity nor outright commercialism nor unbridled feasting and funmaking, but to a rather pleasant combination of all those things.

In that respect, it is our most typical American holiday.

## FIRST QUARREL

(Continued from Page 33)

warm, the potatoes hadn't even started to bake. She shrieked for Gil. He showed her how to switch from the empty gas cylinder to the full one; unfortunately, though, the full one happened to be empty too. So then he showed her how to build a fire in the wood stove. He explained, carefully and explicitly, the care and feeding of wood stoves.

There was no way in the world Laura could have known these things without having them explained. Nevertheless, she resented having them explained. She felt incompetent and ignorant and futile, and the souvenirs of her horseback ride pained her deeply. Her nerves drew tighter and tighter while Gil talked about drafts and dampers, and at last she burst out, "All right, all right, you don't have to be so darned superior."

Gil blinked. "I'm not being superior. I'm just telling —"

"Well, cut it out. I'm not quite half-witted. You think just because I'm not a born hillbilly — Oh, get out of here and let me alone!"

Gil withdrew slowly, looking baffled; he was pretty ignorant about women. Laura went into the pantry, weeping quietly, and began opening cans of beef stew for supper. When Gil came back,

he had his father and Tim with him. Gil sat in a corner and brooded, and Tim practiced blushing and hiding his chin in his collar, and Mr. Mosely sat in his rocking chair by the window and kept turning his fierce old eyes from Laura to the clock and back again.

Supper was half an hour late. The stew had scorched a little and the biscuits were pale yellow and rock hard; the wretched oven had never got hot enough to bake. It wasn't fair, because Laura could make very good biscuits and it wasn't her fault the gas stove wouldn't work. She thought Gil might have explained that to his father, but all Gil talked about was ranch affairs.

"Dinner is served, gentlemen," she said in a cold, clear voice. "Go ahead and eat. I'll be back in a minute."

She stood at the end of the gallery, resting her throbbing head against the corner post, and looked out across the meadow. Beyond the hills, far in the distance, a great white peak of the Sierra lifted against the pale sky. Beautiful. "This is the most beautiful place you can imagine; it's heavenly." Heavenly, yes. A place of unearthly and exquisite beauty, but not real. This alien, dreamlike world had nothing to do with her; it was a mirage into which she had somehow been transported. With mirrors, probably. Her being here was all a terrible mistake, and someone ought to do something about it, because she was Laura Hilton

# FREE TRIAL IN YOUR CAR!

GET MORE MILES PER GALLON\*



**GANE AIR FLOW NEEDLES**

**\$1.50**

WITH AIR-FILTER CAP EACH INSTALLATION 25c

\*Users report 1 to 4 miles more. You also get easier starting, smoother motor, faster pick-up, slower idling.

**NEW CARBURETOR IMPROVEMENT.** Simple. Quickly installed. Replaces ordinary idling adjustment screw in carburetor. Improves fuel-air mixture. BUT SEE FOR YOURSELF.

**CARRY THIS AD** as a reminder to ask your Service Station, Garage, Car Dealer to install Gane Air-Flow Needles in carburetor of your car, now, on Ten-day Free Trial, Money-Back Guarantee.

**IF YOUR DEALER** cannot yet supply you, ORDER DIRECT. Same guarantee. Give Make, Model of your car or truck. Enclose only \$1.50 per Needle (8 cyl. cars take 2). Currency, Check or Stamps. Or Mail Card for Free Data.

**OCTA-GANE**

2425 EAST 57TH STREET, LOS ANGELES 11, CALIF.

# PAIN

of headache, neuritis and neuralgia

# RELIEVED

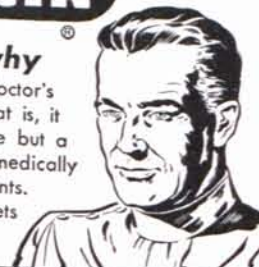
**incredibly fast**

the way thousands of physicians and dentists recommend —

# ANACIN

**Here's why**

Anacin is like a doctor's prescription. That is, it contains not one but a combination of medically proved ingredients. Get Anacin Tablets today.



## McGuffey's Readers

1879 Edition. Unused. Write for prices. Enclose 25 cents for New Book, CASE FOR MCGUFFEY'S LESSONS. Including 20 Old Favorite Lessons. Kenneth Abbott, Hilltop, Columbus, Ohio

# "STOP STALLING!"

DRIVE IN FOR...



**Prevents GAS-LINE FREEZE-UPS**

- Disperses water in gas systems
- Gives upper cylinder lubrication
- Contains rust inhibitor

Add DRYGAS when you buy gasoline

**Crisdy**