

# Thanksgiving

When we gather together with our families or friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, it will be entirely different from the first Thanksgiving celebrated more than 300 years ago.

The origin of this typically American holiday is attributed to Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony who proclaimed the first Thanksgiving in 1621. Imagine, if you will, a small band of pilgrims landing on the bleak shores of Massachusetts on December 21, 1620. Picture in your mind the hardships of the winter, hostile attacks by certain tribes of unfriendly Indians and the sowing of seed in the spring. It is little wonder that when the crop was cut in the fall of that year and found to be more than abundant that a Thanksgiving festival lasting a full week was proclaimed.

Everyone in America should be thankful for our country, our churches, our schools, our freedoms, and for the many other things which we as a nation enjoy. Since Thanksgiving is celebrated on a nationwide basis, however, it is sometimes easy to overlook the small things in life. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live here in this beautiful mountain community certainly have many personal things for which we should be thankful. All of us can give thanks for our health, our families and our friends. We can be thankful, too, that in our community we live in peace and fellowship with each other and in a spirit of mutual understanding, which is lacking in many other places. We can also be thankful that we have a good place to work and adequate places to play.

It only takes a minute to stop and analyze the many little things for which each of us can be thankful. Indeed, if all of us will do this on Thanksgiving Day, most of us will realize how fortunate we actually are.

