



Will There Always Be A Thanksgiving?

By Clint Fuller

"We Give Thanks To Thee, O God, For All Our Abundant Blessings!"

It is a time of Thanksgiving. Proclaimed once a year by the President of the United States, Thanksgiving is a national holiday. It was not always so. Just how long it will remain as such is, even today, questionable.

Visions of Pilgrims, gathered around a table abundant with food, offering prayers of thanks, still mark our thoughts at the time of Thanksgiving. But such an observance did not begin with the early Americans.

Its origins go back to ancient times. The Old Testament contains many conferences to harvest festivals. Long before the people of the Nile learned to measure time, they gave annual thanks for the grain crops that would carry them through the months ahead, according to the National Geographic.

In fact, the day was so sacred to the people of those times; even when at war, a truce was called for its observance.

Probably no holiday in history has been moved around, beaten and abused as has Thanksgiving. Over the years it has been an on-again, off-again occasion, and only recently has a definite date been set. Even so, this cannot be nationally observed without a Presidential proclamation.

Possibly the greatest threat to the holiday is the ever-expanding Christmas season. Already, Thanksgiving is practically forgotten because of the numerous Christmas parades and sales going on. Little preparation is made nowadays for what was once a major holiday, a day of sincere thanksgiving for one's blessings during the year.

This year, Thanksgiving comes on the fourth Thursday

in November. It has not always done so.

Until Abraham Lincoln tethered the nation's roving Thanksgiving to November in 1863, it had showed up in eight different months. For some reason, Thursday was chosen more often than any other day. The record of the Pilgrims' first harvest celebration in the fall of 1621 does not specify dates. Since the feasting lasted three days, there is fair chance that one of the days was Thursday.

While some other colonies adopted the Pilgrim custom, Thanksgiving remained a local on-and-off affair until the time of the Revolution. The Continental Congress designated special days of thanks for victories throughout the war.

In 1789, Elias Boudinot, member from New Jersey, rose in the new Congress and proposed that the President recommend a

day of Thanksgiving for the successful establishment of the United States Constitution. In setting aside the last Thursday in November, 1789, George Washington became the first President to proclaim a nationwide Thanksgiving.

Six years elapsed before he proclaimed another--on February 19, 1795. President John Adams called for an observance in May, 1798, and another in April, 1799. President Jefferson disdained such a "monarchical practice." But President Madison renewed observances in August, 1812; September, 1813; January, 1814; and April, 1815.

Over the next 47 years, Thanksgiving was left to the States. There might never have been a national holiday if it hadn't been for Sarah Hale. A philanthropic widow, See THANKSGIVING Page 6

Weather

Generally fair today and Wednesday. Cooler Wednesday. Low today, 43; high, lower 60's.

Comment

It is the business of every majority to prevent any minority from having its way.

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College Students To Launch Vietnam Gift Drive

Business Association, National Guard Join In "Christmas Star" Project

A group of Louisburg College students and faculty members have launched a campaign to send gifts to American servicemen in Vietnam. The operation, a part of the national "Christmas Star" project, will also see participation by the local National Guard units.

The Louisburg Business Association, in a special meeting of its Board of Directors last Friday night, endorsed the project, and letters have gone out asking member-

merchants to sell special items for shipment at a discount to encourage full participation by the people of Franklin County as well as the town of Louisburg and the College.

Louisburg College students announced Monday they will hold a demonstration in downtown Louisburg Thursday, December 2, to kick off the operation, "Merry Christmas," locally. The students plan to march downtown to the Tar River bridge at 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon and back to the main business district from which they will enter local stores and begin massive purchases of gift items for troops in Vietnam.

The airlift of gifts to North Carolinians serving in Vietnam is part of a nationwide effort authorized by the Department of Defense and appropriately named airlift "Christmas Star." In North Carolina, the project is being sponsored by Raleigh Radio Station WKIX in conjunction with its other 34-

affiliated stations in Charlotte, Wilmington, Winston-Salem, and Sanford.

The North Carolina project is called operation "Merry Christmas." The gifts are to be assembled locally at the National Guard Armory in Louisburg on December 2, 3, and 4. The local Guard unit will transport the gifts to headquarters in Raleigh from where they will be sent to Douglas Municipal Airport in Charlotte. They will be flown from Charlotte by long-range National Guard planes to Vietnam for distribution.

The Louisburg Business Association announces that member merchants participating in the discount sale of these special items will provide a box inside their places of business where gifts may be placed. The local Guardsmen will pick them up daily from the stores, according to an announcement.

Dr. Gerald Shinn of Louisburg College appeared, with the students who originated the idea of local participation, at Friday's meeting of the Business Association Directors. He stated that he and the students will seek 100% participation at the College.

A number of items have been authorized by the Air Force, See DRIVE Page 6

Officers Kept Busy With Three Weekend Shootings

Franklin County Sheriff's deputies were kept busy over the weekend, checking out three shootings in addition to routine arrests.

The first of the three was reported Saturday morning and involved Willie Andrews, n/m/31, charged with beating and shooting Mary Dunston, n/l/26, at the woman's home in the Pocomoke section of the county. Andrews is being held under \$2,000 bond charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The woman was shot in the arm, according to reports.

A second shooting, later ruled accidental, involved a Negro shooting at the home of another. Robert Smith reportedly fired on the home of Issiac Edens on the Tarboro Road, near Youngsville, wounding Edens in the hip. He was treated at the Wake Forest Hospital and later released. No charges have been filed in the case, and officers are continuing their investigation.

The third shooting occurred Sunday morning around 7:30

a.m. at a Negro nightspot near Franklinton reportedly operated by Willie Green, n/m/30. The operator allegedly shot a second Negro, Treat Dunston, 20, of Henderson. Green told Sheriff's Deputies Dave Batten and Tom Powell he shot Dunston after he and two other men attacked him. Dunston suffered a wound in his back.

Green was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and with possession of non-tax paid whiskey and placed under \$200 bond.

Receives 10 Year Award

Former Town Commissioner E. Thornton Jones was recipient of a 10-year Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the local Draft Board last week, according to an announcement today.

The award was presented at the meeting of the local board, Selective Service Board No. 35. The certificate was awarded by the Director of Selective Service.



More Books For Library

Members of the Louisburg Junior Woman's Club are shown above, presenting a club check for \$200 to the Louisburg High School Library at the meeting held here last Wednesday night.

Mrs. David Daniel, chairman of the Education Committee, made a report on the needs of the local library at the meeting, pointing out the most urgent need was for reference books.

Club members, Mrs. Daniel, and committee members, Mrs. Jane Saunders, Mrs. Alfred Fox, and Mrs. Judy Hinton plan to assist Mrs. Evelyn Williamson, school librarian, in classifying and preparing the books for use.

Mrs. Fred Johnson, Club President, presided at the meeting, and the check was presented to the school in ceremonies last Friday afternoon.

It is understood that this amount will be matched by NDEA funds, thereby making the club's gift worth \$400.00 in books.

In further action during the business session, the club voted to send a \$25.00 donation to Children's Home Society in Greensboro and a like amount to one of the state schools for retarded children.

Dr. Cary J. Perry of Louisburg has accepted the post of Medical Representative for the Franklin County Heart Association, it was announced today by Alfred Goodwin, president of the local heart group.

"We are very pleased that Dr. Perry will represent the health and medical professions in our Heart Association leadership," said Mr. Goodwin. "Since 1949, when the North Carolina Heart Association was founded by 33 physicians and six laymen at a state medical society meeting, physicians have worked closely with the Heart program."

In accepting his volunteer post, Dr. Perry pointed out that through the North Carolina and American Heart Associations, he can provide members of local health professions with research reports and other medical materials to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of the

See HEART Page 6

member; Mrs. Evelyn Williamson, school librarian; Mrs. David Daniel, Committee Chairman; and Mrs. Jane Saunders, member of the committee.

Times Staff Photo.

Woman's Club Makes Gift To Library

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Gifts for the children and adults at these institutions will be donated for their Christmas cheer. Club members were reminded by the president to bring gifts to Mrs. R. G. Person, Jr., chairman of Caswell Training School Committee, before the 1st of December. A list of suitable gifts is in the hands of the president, and further information may be gotten from her. All members are urged to bring gifts so that Christmas at these institutions may be a little brighter.

A donation for CARE was voted by the club at this meeting.

Mrs. Ralph Beasley announced that the club's annual Christmas party will be held on Saturday night, December 11, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Roger R. Jackson, Jr., 37, native of Louisburg, announced Monday that he will seek the First Congressional District seat left vacant by the recent death of Rep. Herbert Bonner of Washington, N. C.

Jackson, who was born in Louisburg and lived as a youth in Wake Forest where his father was connected with Wake Forest College, is the nephew of M. C., G. H. and Claude Murphy and Mrs. Scott Dennis. He spent much of his time as a boy in Louisburg, where he worked in his grandfather's (G. W. Murphy) and uncle's grocery store.

Jackson is at present Executive Director of the Choanoke Area Development Association. He plans to resign from this position in order to seek the seat in Congress.

He graduated from Wake Forest High School, Wake Forest

College and taught for a year at Harellesville, N. C. Later he served with the Bank of Harellesville as cashier and director. He was a member of the Harellesville Town Council and served two terms as mayor.

Jackson served as Public Relations Officer and Assistant to the Chairman of the N. C. State Highway Commission during the Sanford Administration. He moved to Murfreesboro earlier this year to assume his duties with the Development Association.

Jackson is a former trustee of Elizabeth City State College, a former member of the General Assembly from Hertford County, a naval veteran of the Korean War, and is married to the former Alma Barber of Clarkton. They have three children.

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Brother Of Local Woman Missing

A brother of a Louisburg woman is missing near Petersburg, Va., following a boating outing nine days ago in which a companion was drowned.

Eugene R. Flexon, 53, of Colonial Heights, Va., brother of Mrs. R. G. Person, Jr., Justice Ave., Louisburg, has been missing since Sunday, November 14, when he and a long-time friend, Ossie Parrish, 53, of Colonial Heights decided to take one final boat ride before storing their boat for the winter.

The body of Parrish was found Monday on the shore of an island in the Appomattox River between Hopewell, Va., and Petersburg. The boat was nearby with the front end damaged. A massive search was conducted for the body of Flexon, believed also drowned, but was called off Sunday until next weekend.

Around 150 persons participated in the search, including ten divers, nine rescue units from Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond, Va., and the National Guard. Searches of the islands in the area have been made and divers have been searching the river.

Mrs. Person, who has spent several days in Virginia with her mother and Mrs. Flexon, has returned home. The Flexons have no children.



"Elegant"

Interior of the new Louisburg College Library is shown above during open house held here Sunday afternoon. Several hundred local citizens visited the

elegant structure, met faculty members, were served refreshments, and came away impressed with the new addition.

-Times Staff Photo.