

Ancient World Responsible For Thanksgiving Tradition



Washington - Thanksgiving reflects the American spirit more than any other holiday, although it was celebrated in the ancient world long before a turkey ever graced a platter.

The Old Testament refers to many harvest festivals. Centuries before the people of the Nile learned to measure a year, they gave annual thanks for the grain crops that would carry them through the hard months ahead, the National Geographic Society says.

The ancient Greeks honored Demeter, goddess of growing

things. The ceremonies were so important that warring states called a truce to observe them.

The Romans carried on the tradition by saluting Ceres, the grain goddess. The word "cereal" recalls the deity. The Greeks sacrificed a sow to begin the holiday and continued with processions, dancing, and sports.

In the New World, many Indians regularly practiced thanksgiving rituals. The Iroquois of New York State, for instance, still ceremonially give thanks for "blessings

provided by the Creator for the enjoyment and well-being of mankind."

The Pilgrims remembered the harvest-home festivals of England and set a pattern for Thanksgiving in the United States as a day of worship, feasting, and family reunions.

The holiday didn't really catch on until the time of the Revolution, however.

Throughout the war, the Continental Congress designated annual days of gratitude for victories. In 1780, soon after the Benedict Arnold

plot was exposed, the annual message particularly thanked the Almighty for looking after the Commander-in-Chief "when treason was ripened for execution."

The tradition continued to find favor after independence. 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. President George Washington set aside

the last Thursday in November.

But the holiday generally became an off-again, on-again affair until the Civil War. At one time, people in various states celebrated Thanksgiving on separate dates and in eight different months.

President Abraham Lincoln revived Thanksgiving as a national day in 1863. "Peace," he said, "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 conflict."

There might never have been a national Thanksgiving holiday, if Sarah Hale hadn't won over President Lincoln.

A philanthropic widow, mother of five, and author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," Mrs. Hale also was the forceful editor of Godey's Lady's Book, the most widely circulated magazine of the day. For more than 20 years she crusaded for a November Thanksgiving Day. Finally, President Lincoln found her plea irresistible.



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Following Rockfish Road Wreck

Charles E. Newton Found Guilty Of Manslaughter

Charles Elmore Newton of 512 W. 6th Ave. was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in Superior Court here last week by a 12-man mixed jury which deliberated approximately one hour following the two and one half day trial.

Newton was charged with the highway deaths of Roosevelt Malloy, Jerry West and Larry Eugene Pittman. All three died of injuries following a three-car crash on the Raeford-Rockfish road Nov. 5, 1966. James Blue and Mrs. Roosevelt Malloy, drivers of the second and

third cars involved, testified that Newton, then 19 years of age, crossed the white line while rounding an upgrade curve at a high rate of speed. He was headed toward Rockfish. The other two automobiles were traveling in the opposite direction.

Investigating patrolman E.C. Coen testified that, in his opinion the Newton car was exceeding the speed limit and that he detected the odor of alcohol as he talked to the young man. He further testified, however, that a breathalyzer test taken later at

the hospital showed no alcohol in Newton's bloodstream.

The defendant on the witness stand, said that he lost control of his car when he tried to dodge the Malloy car which appeared to be approaching him on his side of the road. He admitted that he consumed a carbonated drink with an ounce of gin in it at the home of Jerry West and that he and West then left for Larry Pittman's home to pick him up and go on to a party at Rockfish.

Newton said he approached the curve at about 65 miles per hour. Speed limit posted on the road, it was pointed out, is 55 miles per hour.

Prior to the passing of a sentence by Judge E. Maurice Braswell, Prosecuting attorney Doran Berry, offering a final comment, declared that, "The State sees no useful purpose in giving this young man an active sentence. We do not seek vengeance and could not find salvation for the unfortunate deaths of those three persons by taking advantage of the mistake of this young man. I am impressed with the character he has displayed and the good reputation established for him in the testimony of reputable witnesses."

Carl Barrington, Sr., attorney for the defense expressed appreciation for the solicitor's remarks.

Judge Braswell commended the defendant on his courtroom attitude, on the good character portrayed and on the fact that after the tragedy he had been strong enough to go on and complete his high school education and had since become and has remained gainfully employed. (He is employed at Pacific Mills).

The judge also voiced opinion that he did not believe an active sentence was called for in this case, but said to the defendant, "You are guilty. You were driving at an unlawful rate of speed." With his final remarks, he rendered a sentence which called for a three-year suspended term to be spent under probation. He was also ordered to pay a \$250 fine and costs of court.

Newton is the son of Mrs. Helen Newton Smith and the late Mr. Newton. His stepfather, Charles H. Smith, remained at his side throughout the trial.

Superior Court Ends Friday Afternoon

After having his charge of kidnapping and rape revised to "assault on a female," in Superior Court here last week, Ardell

Sturdivant changed his plea of not guilty to guilty.

Judge E. Maurice Braswell handed him a sentence of three years with option of work release. Sturdivant was originally charged with kidnapping and rape last summer when he admittedly forced a woman from a car and assaulted her.

David Lee Montague, 15, Leonard Training School, McCain, charged with felonious auto larceny, plead nolo contendere. He was charged with stealing a 1968 model chevrolet pick-up truck on Nov. 2, belonging to Otis Webb. He was sentenced to the N.C. State Department of Correction for four years. It was ordered that he be segregated as a youthful offender and that he be given vocational training and taught a useful trade. When he has gained sufficient technical skill, it is recommended that he then be placed on the work release plan.

Richard Ellis, Raeford Rt. 1, charged with burning or attempting to

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Bloodmobile Here Dec. 5th

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Methodist Church in Raeford on Dec. 5 from 11 to 5 p. m. to collect its quota of 125 units of blood.

More blood transfusions are given during the month of December than any other. Clyde Upchurch, president of the local Red Cross chapter, said this week.

Upchurch recounted that the Christmas spirit comes from giving and almost every person can give away blood and never miss it. This kind of giving will make a down payment on happier holidays for those who need your kind of spirit and help make the 20th anniversary year of the blood program's operation its most successful.

Many people will need this life-saving gift. Remember, the public appeal states the blood you give may be the most precious gift to a child, an accident victim, or an open heart surgery case.

"As you are downtown this year buying those toys and beautiful gifts, there will be some people who will need more. They will need the gift of life, a pint of blood which you can give without cost," Upchurch pleaded.

Lumbermen for Advancement incorporated, a federal program, getting under way which will involve Hoke County.

County Manager T. B. Lester was authorized to advance funds to be used in making a trip to New York to bring Willie James Watson back to Hoke County to be tried on a charge of murder and armed robbery.

Appropriated was \$300 for materials used in repairs being made at Wayside Community House, and a \$25 Christmas contribution to be sent to Caswell Training School at Kinston.



A NEW SUIT - Ed Murray, Manager of Raeford Worsted Plant, is shown above presenting cloth for a suit to Congressman Alton A. Lennon at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon last Thursday. The Rev. Cortez Cooper, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church, is in the background.

Chamber of Commerce Entertains

Congressman Lennon Speaks At Luncheon

"We need not expect an immediate change, as soon as the new president takes over, on existing policies and programs now being sponsored by the federal government, Congressman Alton A. Lennon told a group of some 60 people who attended a luncheon in his honor at the Family Restaurant, Thursday.

The congressman said that Nixon would not act so hastily. In his own opinion, Lennon said, a study should be made, in depth, by congress as to whether changes are needed before any decision is made. "It would mean chaos if Nixon were to suddenly repeal OEO, ESEA or any other of

the existing programs. "The new president would think first of what is good for the country."

Calling on the people to keep their representatives in Washington informed as to local views on controversial subjects, the district leader rather firmly took the populace to task for not taking the time to involve itself with issues at hand-for not keeping in touch.

Lennon said that the question as to what can be expected from the upcoming congress is anybody's guess. He referred to the election as one of the most turbulent in history both in popular and in electoral votes.

He commended Humphrey on his comment to Nixon following election returns which counted the Democrat out. "I lost, you won," he quoted Humphrey as saying. "Now, let us unite for the good of our country."

Lennon declared that those words will take a great deal toward bringing

unity among the people of the nation.

He denounced the federal government for continuously spending more money than it can take in. "If we were faced with a crisis as in World War II, what would we do? I don't believe we can overspend year after year after year and continue to believe that relative prosperity and affluence will never end."

Harold Gillis, manager of the Raeford Chamber of Commerce, presented Wyatt Upchurch, Chamber president, town commissioners, Judge Maurice Braswell, Solicitor Doran Berry and a number of other local and out of town guests.

Sam Morris, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Committee, introduced Lennon.

At the close of the hour-long affair, Ed Murray, plant manager of Pacific Mills Raeford Worsted Plant, presented the visiting politician a length of wool ready to be made into a suit.

Byrne Promoted

Thornberg Tax Collector

A new job has been created in the Hoke County Courthouse offices and a new man has been put to work in the courthouse.

Archie Byrne, tax collector for a number of years has been made assistant tax supervisor and Bryan H. Thornberg, a Quewhille farmer, has been hired as tax collector to succeed Byrne.

The two appointments were made Wednesday night at a called meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners. Thornberg has been a list taker for the past five years and

has served several years as a registrar. He and Byrne will receive the same salary of \$5,625.

In other business the county commissioners approved a new contract with the Jaycees for storage space at the fair ground exhibit building at \$80 a month.

The group voted in favor of carpeting one of the county offices in order to cut down on noise of a heavy machine which serves the tax collector, the tax supervisor and the county treasurer.

They agreed to pay \$200 as Hoke's part on the cost of office space in

District Court To Begin Dec. 2

Of the dozen cases to come before Judge D. B. Herring in Hoke County District Civil Court beginning on Dec. 2, three are divorce cases.

They include, Robert Lee Smith versus Ida M. Smith; Mabel Jean McC. Thornburg versus Clarence Thomas Thornburg and Charles Ralph Maroney versus Elizabeth Gay Maroney.

Other cases include:

Hoke-Scotland Tractor Co. versus Ben Alston and wife, Annie Alston; Lamar K. Smith Jr. versus Clyde Griffin; Mrs. G. W. Peebles versus W. C. Dowd and O. F. Dowd; Southern National Bank of North Carolina, Raeford, versus Harold Currie; Ray Woolfenden versus Friendly Broadcasting Co. T/A Radio Station WSHL.

Clayton Buoyer versus Bernard Bray; James Rodney Lee, versus Hubert M. Crumpler and Nellie B. Crumpler, D/B/A The Hitching Post; Clyde Leach versus Ralph G. Hall; William J. Ratley versus Gloria Beam.

Thanksgiving Services Today At Methodist Church

Union Thanksgiving services will be held Thursday at 9 a. m. at Raeford United Methodist Church.

The Rev. R. C. Mooney, Jr., host minister will preside and the Rev. Cortez Cooper, Presbyterian pastor, will deliver the sermon, using the topic, "Thankful-For What?"

The scripture will be read by the Rev. Jack Mansfield, pastor of First Baptist Church. Miss Jessie Bright Ferguson of Raeford Methodist will serve as organist and Bryan Miller of the same church will direct the choir.

Warren Hastings will sing "Because of Thou Bounty," and the anthem will be, "Praise, Thanks and Adoration."

OBSERVING HOLIDAY

Schools are closed today for Thanksgiving and will not be open again until Monday morning.

Stores and offices are closed today but will resume business on Friday.