

# Early Thanksgivings were big feasts

(Ed. Note - Sixth grader Marylee Hoyle Dilling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Dilling, was District II winner in the recent Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter DAR essay contest. The local contest was on the subject, "Coming To America In Colonial Days." Dilling wrote on "Early Thanksgiving Celebrations.")

By MARYLEE DILLING  
Thanksgiving Day, as we now celebrate it, is quite different from the feasts the early settlers held.

While we celebrate annually by observing the fourth Thursday in November in a day-long celebration, the Colonists of long ago feasted at different times and sometimes for several days at a time. However, many aspects of the Thanksgiving celebration have remained unchanged throughout the centuries.

The first Thanksgiving was held in 1607 in Phohan Colony which is now Maine. On December 4, 1619, the 38 settlers of Berkeley's Hundred held a day of thanksgiving at Berkeley's Plantation on the James River in what is now Charles City, Virginia, to celebrate their arrival at the plantation.

The Mayflower came ashore on December 21, 1620. The most well-known Thanksgiving celebra-

tion was held in October, 1621. The settlers had been in Plymouth less than a year when the harsh winter killed about one-half of the Pilgrims. In the summer of 1621, they expected a good corn harvest despite the bad pea, wheat and barley crops. The Indians had helped the Pilgrims grow the "strange Indian corn" by using fish as fertilizer. There were 20 whole acres of Indian corn grown for the upcoming festival.

In early autumn, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a harvest festival to thank God for the progress made. The festival was to be similar to the harvest-home celebration in England.

The festival lasted for three days in an open field near Town Brook, Massachusetts. Ninety Wampanoag Indians and their chief, Massasoit, attended the three-day festival. The Indians were male warriors who wore war paint. They brought five deer to the feast. There were 11 houses and four buildings provided for people to sleep in.

The Pilgrims and Indians feasted on roast duck, roast geese, roasted wild turnkey, clams and other shellfish, smoked eel, ground nuts (potato-like roots) baked in hot ashes, fish, wild plums, peas, Indian corn, the five deer the Indians brought, barley, waterfowl, salad greens, herbs, corn pone,



MARYLEE HOYLE DILLING

"Injun" bread (corn-rye), wine from wild grapes, leeks, watercress, cranberries and pumpkin pie.

The women supervised outside-over-the fire cooking and the men went hunting. In Edward Winslow's words, "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men fowling, that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors."

Captain Miles Standish held a military review for his small army. There were games of skill and

chance, and there was target shooting with guns and bows and arrows. They held races and wrestling matches, they sang, danced, mingled with each other, and the Indians entertained them with dances.

About mid-October, the next year there wasn't enough food for a celebration, and the Pilgrims struggled to survive. The third spring and summer were hot and dry. By July, 1623, all the crops had dried up. Like a miracle the rains came, gushing down in torrents and sheets of pelting water. Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of feasting and prayer on November 29, 1623, to celebrate this life-saving miracle. Some people say this was the first true Thanksgiving.

In future years there were similar celebrations held, but no truly official date was set until the 20th century.

Although Thanksgiving celebrations have changed somewhat since the early feasts of long ago, in many ways this special holiday remains the same. It is still a celebration of harvest, and it is still a time when family and friends join together to give thanks for their blessings. Surviving many changes and the passage of time, the purpose of the Thanksgiving feast remains the same.

# School systems hold joint training

Cleveland Community College, the three county school systems, and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Mathematics and Science Education Network have concluded a joint training program as part of the 1993 Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Program.

The program was awarded to

serve under-represented students in the middle schools and high schools of Cleveland County. CCC served as the sponsoring institution of higher education for the project.

As part of the program, middle school and high school teachers and guidance staff from Cleveland County Schools, Kings Mountain District Schools and Shelby City

Schools met in class sessions at CCC for lectures, small group discussions, group work and panel discussions. The goal of the project was for the participants to prepare a written document to take back to each individual school. The document addresses educational theory and practices for ensuring that minority students will choose to prepare themselves for careers in mathematics and/or science and will ultimately enter careers in science and mathematics.

Session topics included Learning Styles, Critical and Analytical

Thinking Skills, Cultural Biases of Standardized Tests, and Career Opportunities in Medicine, Nutrition, Agriculture and Chemistry.

Coordinators for the project were Dr. Ron Wright, Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Public Services, CCC; Dr. Ron Nanney, Assistant Superintendent, Cleveland County Schools; Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Kings Mountain District Schools; and Dr. Faye Burton, Assistant Superintendent, Shelby Schools.



The first grade class of Johnna Wyte and Wanda Gilmore are shown as they greet Captain Joey S. Wyte, brother-in-law of their teacher, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Mogadishu, Somalia. While there he received cards, letters and pictures from these Bethware students. They welcomed him home with a banner and Valentines. After a visit with his family Capt. Wyte will be stationed in Brisbane, Australia.

## AWARDS

From Page 9-B

unteers and contributors who have helped make Association services successful throughout the year. Reservations can be made by calling or visiting the Patient-Family Support Center on 230 North Post Road, Shelby. The office number is 481-9535. After 6 p.m., call 538-3180 or 538-8002.

■ The Kidney Association will hold an information workshop for patients and families affected by Prednisone Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. at the CRKA patient support center. If enough people register, a second session will be held at 2 p.m.

Patients or family members may register by calling Renee Ledford at 481-9535 or 538-8002.

The workshop will have a \$3 copying fee. Register in advance to assure a seat.

Other lectures upcoming include:

Assertiveness to Health Care (for senior citizens), 11-11:30 a.m., March 18 at Kings Mountain Depot, March 21 at Lawndale Bliss Center, March 25 at First Assembly Church, Shelby, and March 28 at Boiling Springs Methodist Church.

Kidney Disease Patient/Family Support Group, 1p.m., March 31 at CRKA, 230 North Post Road, Shelby.

## COURSES

From Page 9-B

The class location is to be announced later.

Sign language begins May 16 and will meet each Monday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Methodist Church.

For more information on courses, call 484-4015.

■ The Shelby Art League and Cleveland Community College will host the 18th annual Student Artists Exhibition through March 30 at The Gallery at CCC.

Entries are from the county's four high schools and four middle schools. A first prize of \$100, second prize of \$75 and third prize of \$50 will be awarded in each division. In addition, there will be 16 honorable mention awards of \$25 each.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. For more information call Hal Bryant at 484-4023.

■ CCC will host the Burns High production of Love Letters March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the CCC auditorium. The production is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Dottie McIntyre at 484-4025.

■ CCC will host soprano vocalist Gena Poovey Sunday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the CCC auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public. The performance will be a program written by and about women to celebrate Women's History Month. For more information call Dottie McIntyre at 484-4025.

BRICK - BLOCK - MORTAR - SAND - BRICK - BLOCK - MORTAR - SAND

# BENNETT

Call 739-3666 • Kings Mountain • WE DELIVER

BRICK - BLOCK - MORTAR - SAND - BRICK - BLOCK - MORTAR - SAND

# Experiencing Technical Difficulties?

Let's face it. The new high-tech workplace can get to the best of us.

Gaston College can help you get the skills you need to do more than just keep up. We can help you set the pace.

From courses in computer fundamentals, spreadsheet, and desktop publishing to degree programs in accounting, office technology, and computer programming, Gaston's got you covered.

Give us a call. We'd be glad to give you more information.

**GASTON COLLEGE**  
Success Starts Here.

REGISTRATION MARCH 15 ■ 922-6214

# Shelby Mazda's Exceptional Savings

'94 Protege' **\$206.28\***

Selling price \$10,430

P-105

'94 B2300 Pickup **\$197.68\***

Air Cond & P Steering

P-128

\* Based on financing of selling price for 60 months at 6.95% APR plus tax, tag and title if applicable. On approved credit only. All incentives remain with dealer. Offer expires 5/1/94.

1991 Mazda Protege' - \$8,495 White, 5 Speed, Air, Cassette	1988 Mazda B2600 4X4 - \$8,495 White, 5 Speed, Air, Stereo, Camper	1990 Mazda MPV - \$13,495 Ruby, 7 Passenger, Full Power
1992 Nissan Sentra SE - \$10,495 Red, Auto Trans, Air, Stereo	1993 Mazda 626 - \$16,495 Blue, Auto Trans, Full Power	1992 Mazda 626 - \$11,795 Blue, Air, Cassette, Cruise
1992 Mazda Protege - \$9,995 Emerald, 5 Speed, Air, Cassette	1992 Saturn - \$9,995 White, 5 Speed, Air, Cassette	1992 Toyota Tercel - \$8,495 Blue, Auto Trans, Air, Cassette
1991 Honda Accord LX - \$3,195 White, Auto Trans, Full power	1991 Mazda 626 LX - \$11,795 White, Auto Trans, Full Power	1990 Olds Silhouette - \$11,495 Silver, 7 Pass Minivan, V6, Full Power
1993 Mazda MPV - \$18,495 White, 7 Passenger, Full Power	1993 Mazda B2200 LE - \$9,995 Black, 5 Speed, LE Trim, Cassette	1992 Mitsubishi Truck - \$7,995 Blue, 5 Speed, Air, Cassette, Bedliner

# SHELBY MAZDA

1843 E. Dixon Blvd., Shelby, NC

482-6771 or 800-280-6771

See Us Before You Buy - We Will not Refuse any Reasonable Offer...