

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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WEEKLY 5¢

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

DITHYRAMB TO TURKEY DAY

by Robert C. Friend

Twass Thanksgiving Day, and in Point Richmond Square
The smell of roast turkey pervaded the air.
The gang on the corner in silence conferred
Just waiting for someone to give them "the bird!"

The boys at the Baltic, the Mac and the Spot,
Were having a purely medicinal shot,
While all of the wives (you could tell without looking)
Were busy as bees with their Holiday cooking.

And throughout the Point, houses high on the hill,
With uncles and aunts were beginning to fill;
While tagging along came their small girls and boys,
To wear out their welcome in weltering noise.

A pre-dinner drink for the men of the family,
Ladies a-chatter --- their babes bawling clammy
Then to the table in high jubilation
To feast on fruits of our flourishing nation.

"Come, Mother, sit here... and next to you, Anne...
And, Harry, start carving as fast as you can.
You kids, take your places! I'll sit next to Pete...
Please hurry up, Harry! We all want to eat!"

Soon the big bird looked small, minus drumstick and breast,
"Pass the gravy, potatoes, and all of the rest...."
And the feasters were acting excessively mellow,
They were too full to talk; but, of course, they ate Jello!

Thus went the day that our fore-fathers planned,
A day like no other --- in no other land.
And because we rejoice in a good way of living,
We pause, once a year, for this Day of Thanksgiving.



THANKSGIVING

---Bill Farmer

The Pilgrim Fathers, whose memory we honor once a year by a great feast (if we can afford it) are --- we must admit --- dead. What do we have in common with these hardy ancestors to whom all Americans (Poles, Italians, Mexicans, Negroes?) are expected to turn at this time of year in reverence for their courage, their vision, their faith (though we mustn't dwell on these) and, according to tradition, their phenomenal appetites one late November? I could answer that question, but to do so requires us to be self-critical, and nobody likes to do that-- so what if these old boys found their courage, vision and faith in a religious heritage permeated by high standards of conduct founded on an unshakeable confidence in the sovereignty of God over all the acts of history; so what if we're so grown up now that we don't have to go along with the fairy tales they believed (or is the baby gone with the bath?) --- at least we've got that good old feast -- or do we? Historians tell us that first Thanksgiving was in a time of intense want, sacrifice and privation; that the pilgrims' "feast" was a cry of praise and gratitude out of hearts we would more likely expect to hear wailing, "How long, O Lord!" No, I suppose all we will ultimately have in common with the Pilgrim Fathers is that one day we too will be as they and their values are --- dead --- or are they?

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EDITOR'S THANKS-GIVING

This seems an appropriate time to thank the many people who have contributed to this paper. Point Counterpoint has been largely a community effort, and it is very difficult to adequately express the gratitude that these helpful people deserve. Besides the people who call or write in with articles, poems, and news items, (all of whose names it would be impossible to list) a few names are appropriate, since assistance in the manual labor of printing and collating the paper is a pretty thankless task: Connie Healy, Mildred Dornan and Bonita Amantite; We thank you, and all other contributors. Many, many thanks

THE POINT'S POETIC CYNIC

-----Curtis Beresford

A Pious Thought on Thanksgiving

I don't like turkey served in any way;
But turkey's on my plate Thanksgiving Day.
The Pilgrims, looking for a place to dock
Made landing on hard Plymouth Rock.

Some died upon our shore, and some survived
And those that lived gave thanks they were
alive.

They had a meal --some corn but mostly
turkey ---
Some of the meat was white, but most was
murky.

Because they ate this bird, then so we must
Eat what they ate --- a custom tasteless ---
most unjust!

If Pilgrims had not seen our favored shore
We'd not eat turkey any more.

'Twere better had that Rock they used to
land
Instead had landed on that Pilgrim band!

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IT TOOK A WOMAN TO SETTLE THANKSGIVING:

After the first three-day feast, celebrated with the Pokanoket Indians in 1691, Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in the following years, but at various dates in different colonies. George Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789, as first national Thanksgiving Day, but the custom continued to vary widely among the states. Sarah Hale first suggested Thanksgiving as a national holiday, and campaigned 20 years through editorials in her magazine Godsey's Lady's Book (the name should have been Goady's), and through letters to the President; and finally President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November as the national day of Thanksgiving.

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THANKSGIVING, 1918

The following two articles were taken from The Richmond Daily Independent, of November 27, 1918. They were contributed by Mr. Don Church, who has been compiling all items of interest from papers dating back to 1910. His research has made him the unofficial Historian of Point Richmond. These articles, and much of the information concerning Point Richmond History have been made available by the Richmond Museum.

EAGLE CAFE

Point Richmond, California
November 28, 1918

Thanksgiving Special Dinner

\$1.00

Toke Points on Half Shell
California Olives
Celery en Branch

Dill Pickles
Cream of Tomato
Chicken Consomme With
Rice

Fried Salmon Steak

Julienne Potatoes
wheat muffins
grape juice punch

ROAST YOUNG CALIFORNIA TURKEY
RAISIN DRESSING,
CRANBERRY SAUCE,

ROAST SUCKLING PIG with
OREGON APPLE SAUCE
garden peas

Candied Sweet Potatoes

Eagle Cafe Special Salad

English Plum Pudding
brandy sauce

Hot Mince Pie

Lemon Cream Pie

Cafe Noir

PASTORS INVITE ALL TO THANKSGIVING SERVICES TOMORROW

Surely if ever a people in the world had any reason for thanksgiving, the people of the United States have. Not simply because we have been victorious in battle ---not simply because we now have peace---but because right and justice will now have an opportunity to spread over the whole earth. Because before we entered into this great struggle, we gained the victory over ourselves. We are now facing a new era. Let us turn our hearts toward God who alone is able to work out through us a real brotherhood of the earth. Again, while many of our people were taken with the plague, we should be devoutly thankful that no more homes were obliged to suffer. Let this service be one for the whole people, not simply for those who are identified with some one of the churches of our city. Let everyone feel that he has the right to a share in this meeting. The hour of the service is 10:30 a. m. There will be an offering of thanks given, this to be sent to the suffering Armenians and Syrians. Let us make this a large expression of gratitude to God. While we have suffered, yet we have not approached the suffering of our neighbors across the water.

RICHMOND MINISTERIAL
UNION

The Co-Owners of the Cafe, Allyn and Janelous, were giving the People of Richmond an awful lot to be thankful for, for one dollar !