



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER



The Thanksgiving Story

The Pilgrims were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America from England. Most of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the Mayflower. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. The remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast--including 91 Indians who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. It is believed that the Pilgrims would not have made it through the year without the help of the natives. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "Thanksgiving" observance. It lasted three days.

Governor William Bradford sent four men fowling after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison. The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at most every Thanksgiving **table is pumpkin pie**. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour **had been long diminished**, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled **pumpkin**, and they produced **a type** of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, **potatoes**, or butter. There was no **domestic** cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still **considered** by many Europeans **to be** poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, **lobster**, dried fruit, clams, venison, and **plums**.

This "Thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. But in 1623, during a severe drought, the pilgrims gathered in a prayer service, **praying** for rain. When a long, **steady** rain followed the very next day, Governor Bradford proclaimed another **day** of Thanksgiving, **again** inviting their Indian friends. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of **Thanksgiving was proclaimed**.

On June 20, 1676, the governing Council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of Thanksgiving. It is notable that this Thanksgiving celebration probably did not include the Indians, as the celebration was meant partly to be in recognition of the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives".

October of 1777 marked the first time that all 13 colonies joined in a Thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair.

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, although some were opposed to it. There was discord among the colonies, many feeling the hardships of a few Pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson scoffed at the idea of having a day of Thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her *Boston Ladies' Magazine*, and later, in *Godey's Lady's Book*. Finally, after a 40 year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents. Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision cause the President to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the fourth Thursday in November.

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Library News

Don't forget to vote on November 5th! There will be a referendum on your ballot that asks if you want to add Blue Mound Township (the Cooksville area) to our library district. Adding this Township will provide library service to this area and will increase our library's resources.

Do you have a Towanda-area family history that you would like to share with the library for patrons doing local history research and genealogy? Please contact the director, Mary Williams at 728-2176.

The old and the new: if you have read a favorite book that is in our collection, please let us know. We would like to start a display of "What You Recommend" books so that others can read what you've found to be wonderful

Would you like to bring your preschool child to story time but can't make it on Wednesday mornings? We have added another session! You can choose either Wednesday mornings from 11-11:30 or Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-3:30. These programs are timed so that if you also have an older child, you may pick him or her up from school while your preschooler is in story time. The winter session will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 13 for both the morning and afternoon sessions. This program will run for 8 weeks on the following dates: Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Jan. 8 and 15. You must register your child by stopping in at the library or by calling 728-2176.

Have you checked our website at www.frontiernet.net/~tdl/towandalib.htm? You can see what's going on at the library or you can search the catalogs of many other libraries or find out what new books we have, all with the click of a button!

Are you interested on being on the library board? Contact Diane Mueller or Mary Williams.

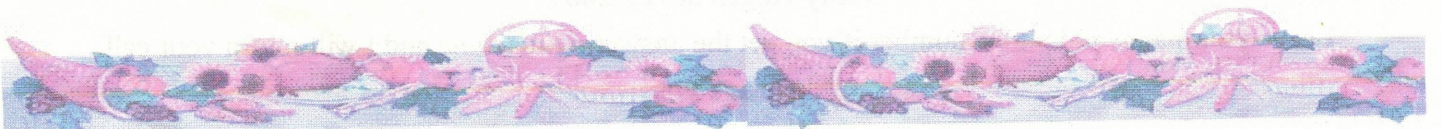
Holiday Luminaries

Have you enjoyed the holiday luminary displays we've held in prior years? Do you want to see this subdivision tradition continue? If yes, would you be willing to coordinate the luminary display this year? It doesn't require a lot of time or effort. The coordinator is responsible for taking bag orders, purchasing the bags, arranging for sand to be delivered, delivering the bags, and getting the word out to everyone. If you have access to a pick-up truck and enjoy hard work, you may wish to deliver the sand house-to-house, as several of our past coordinators have done. If not, you can arrange to have sand delivered down by the bridge where each homeowner may pick up their own sand. And, of course, the most important task is picking a date when it is tolerable to be outside! Depending on the date, it may be possible to use the December newsletter to get the word out to everyone! Let's not let the tradition die! Don't wait for someone else to volunteer! If we get more than one volunteer, the work can be shared. Contact Sue Arnold at 728-2614 if you are willing to help. All expenses will be reimbursed by the Homeowners' board.

POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING COMBO

The Homeowners' Board would like your feedback on combining the 2003 annual meeting with a potluck dinner. We haven't had

good attendance at either the annual meetings or the fall picnics for the past several years. We thought that if we skipped the fall picnic this year, and incorporated it into the annual meeting, we might increase the attendance. The annual meeting is always held in March, so if we do a potluck, we would pick a Sunday evening in March. We always try to avoid Spring Break week. Please contact any of the board members with your feedback on this idea (names and telephone numbers on your directory). We think it could be a lot of fun! Give us your opinion now so plans may be made in advance.



CHECK YOUR TELEPHONE BILLS!

When we moved in several years ago, we were told by former homeowners that the biggest complaint they had about living in Indian Creek was that every phone call they made was long distance. They had, however, found a plan that made that less of a problem and they shared that with us. We don't know how many others this information was shared with so I would like to take this opportunity to pass along a warning to all Indian Creek residents.

By dialing the MCI code of 10-10-222 before long distance calls, we have saved an extraordinary amount of money over the years. However, MCI now wants to make that money back! I have discovered in the last several days that they may charge you whatever they feel is "right" for a certain day. As the operator I spoke with said "That was the justified rate on that particular day." Pardon me? I was astounded. Our last phone bill contained a mere nine long distance calls where we had used the 10-10-222 code. This bill just months ago would have cost us approximately \$5.00. On this bill, however, it totaled over \$75.00!!!!

How is this rectified? The operator said "By becoming a member of MCI, we will make good on these calls for you. If you will join today it will only cost you \$5.99 per month plus seven cents per minute on all your long distance calls." Again, pardon me? There should be no monthly charge for this service. Seven cents a minute was higher than what we were originally being charged. I am not one to sit back and let anyone take advantage of me and/or my family so I asked "Exactly how legal is this?" The operator went silent on the other end of the line for what seemed to be about 15-20 seconds. I again asked "How legal is it to charge whatever you feel like on certain days as you have indicated?" She stumbled on her words and proceeded to tell me she could go back as far as April and give me a refund on a percentage of our calls through MCI. I asked what percentage she was talking about. She indicated we had approximately \$165.00 in calls from then and she could credit to Frontier a total of approximately \$140.00. I told her to do it. She asked again if I wanted to join MCI and I laughed at her. Frontier did not have our newest bill on the computer at the time I called them to report this. I am to call back again tomorrow and we will go over what MCI told me. I am not holding my breath, but I am anxious to make sure a credit will be done to our account as well.

Have you been using this 10-10-222 code for your long distance calls? If so, please check over your bills for the past several months to see if you have been charged more than you had been in the past. I was partly at fault for this because I hadn't checked my bills good each month. It slowly increased and I didn't do anything. But when I got a bill that was about \$70 higher than usual, I took action and you've heard the story now! If anyone has any further incite on this matter, please let me know. I am just astounded by this and plan on following up on it and will let you know the outcome. I felt obligated to pass this along because I, too, have told people to use this code. Our calls began at about 3 to 5 cents a minute on this but jumped to as high as \$4.99! **CHECK YOUR TELEPHONE BILLS IF YOU HAVE USED A MCI CODE!**

Vicky Hogan, Homeowner & Newsletter Editor



GARDEN CLUB

The next Garden Club meeting will be on Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Kay Liebenow's home. They will be planting Paper White bulbs for forced blooming indoors. Bring \$3.00 for each set of five Paper Whites you wish to purchase, and a shallow planter to plant them in. Anyone with questions may call Marta Mason at 728-8008.

RESIDENT UPDATE

Will the people who have purchased Gleasons' home at 3 Bent Tree Lane please contact me so that I may get the information needed to put them in the subdivision directory?

Vicky Hogan at 728-2863

Leave your name and phone number if you get the answering machine and I will return your call.

Thank you.