

A PAGE FOR YOUNG GIRLS OF ALL AGES

Conducted by CHRISTINE TERHUNE HERRICK



IN SOME HOUSES * * * THE GIRLS LEND A HAND IN THE PREPARATION OF THE THANKSGIVING FEAST

Each Girl's Personal Share in Thanksgiving—Mrs. Herrick Tells What She Can Do to be Happy and Make Others Happy as Well

DO YOU girls ever think of what your own personal and particular share in Thanksgiving is?

I don't mean in the way of returning personal thanks alone, although there is a big lot in that. In fact, if I were to begin telling you all you have to be thankful for I would take up the whole page and crowd out all the letters and the pictures. So perhaps I would best leave a good deal of it to your own thoughts.

One thing, though, I would like to say to you. If you will stop to think you will very often find that the things for which you ought to return most "humble and hearty thanks" are the things you didn't get. Did you ever ponder on that?

The youngest of you can recollect the wishes she had a little while ago that she may have prayed and longed to have come true, and which she would not have now for the world. Life seems sometimes just a succession of silliness outgrown, and it is a cause for thankfulness when we can see that we have left some of them behind.

Things We Want Not Always Best

When we look at matters in this way it should make us feel that some of the things we want now may not be so all-important as we fancy, and that some of the trials we resent are not the worst experiences in the world, perhaps. Often we kick against things that are really doing us lots of good, and by this time next year we may be giving thanks for the bothers and worries of to-day.

Stop now and think if there is not some cause for gratitude in what was only reason for annoyance last year at this time.

It is very interesting to note the different things for which people give thanks. Some are thankful for immaterial blessings, others for the chance to work, others still for the chance to rest. This one is grateful for relief from crushing sorrow, another may be giving thanks for relief from suffering of some one she loves. I fancy the highest sort of thankfulness is that which is offered for others, instead of being confined to one's self.

I wish you girls would each of you sit down and write me a letter, telling me what especial cause for thankfulness you have this year. Then we will publish them, and we can talk them over and compare notes. I think all of us get some new ideas by the process, as well as a good deal of entertainment. Suppose we try it. Remember that I have asked

you to write on only one side of the paper and to inclose your name and address, and that if you wish a personal reply you must send a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

But to come back to the question at the head of this article: How many of you feel that you have



FOR A CENTRE PIECE TO HOLD FRUIT A BIG PUMPKIN CAN BE MADE ATTRACTIVE

a personal share in Thanksgiving? And now I am speaking of the family Thanksgiving.

In some households it is taken for granted that the girls shall lend a hand in the preparations for the Thanksgiving feast. If they don't do it in one way they do in another. They may not stone raisins and make pastry, but they assume the ornamental part of the dinner. They see to the table decorations and look after the little "frills" that escape the attention of the busy mother.

This ought always to be so, girls. The mothers get tired, and they have been getting tired for so long that it has taken the edge off their enthusiasm. They have not the same zest in trifles that they once had. By the time they have done all the necessary things they have little energy left for adornments. That should be your province.

Try to Make Everybody Happy

So go to work and think what you can do to make Thanksgiving better at home. It will do you good. Anything that we do to make others happy reacts on ourselves, not only in giving us present enjoyment, but in making us feel that we are a part of things. You are none of you little independent colonies, although you may think so. You are all a part of one big whole, and the sooner you appreciate it the better and the happier you will be. If you can begin to feel it, and practice it right now, you will have a new something to be thankful for.

Let me tell you of a few ways in which you girls may help at Thanksgiving.

In the first place, plan the table decorations and get them. For a feast like this there should be native things so far as possible. Exotic may be very well for some occasions—if you can afford them—but they are not in place at a national festival, such as Thanksgiving.

For this you should have bitter-sweet and scarlet fire bush berries, and hardy native ferns, such as you can find in the woods as late as Thanksgiving and even later. Partridge berries, with their bright green and red, and wintergreen berries are appropriate, too. If you can put them into receptacles of birch bark, so much the better. If not, arrange them in low dishes about the table.

For a centre piece to hold fruit a big pumpkin is attractive. Hollow it out, cutting the edge into points, line it with soft paper and heap up in it apples, pears and grapes. Or, if you wish the fruit to be brought in later, and prefer flowers for the middle of the table, you can devise an unusual and

yet pleasing centre piece by selecting a nice-looking cabbage, making incisions in it here and there with a sharp knife and sticking flowers into these cuts. A pale green cabbage, with leaves that curl back prettily about the base, may be made a thing of beauty by placing it on a bed of moss, either gray or dark green, and sticking the cabbage full of sprigs of bitter-sweet or other brilliant berries.

Make the candy for the Thanksgiving dinner. Not the French bonbons, but good old-fashioned molasses candy, maple creams, fudge, peanut taffy and all the other standbys. If you can have little birch bark dishes for these and surround each one with a trail of running cedar you are pretty sure to have a charming table.

If you have any skill with pen or brush you may ornament dinner cards for the family. If you cannot make your own designs, cut out little pictures from illustrated papers or catalogues and apply these skillfully to cards. Seek out an appropriate quotation for each one of these. If you wish, you can color the pictures you paste on the cards or write the inscriptions in different tints, using a very fine brush dipped in water colors.

One of the most satisfactory Thanksgiving feasts I ever saw was conducted by a clever girl who belonged to an old New England family. She had put all sorts of charming touches into the arrangement of the table, and she added others, besides, such as I have suggested.

She had the grace before meat take the form of the long metre doxology, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow," sung by the whole family, standing behind their chairs. Just before the dessert came on she slipped out of the room and into a Puritan costume she had devised, and coming back stood in her place and sang "The breaking waves dashed high."

Moreover, she had arranged toasts to be drunk in sweet cider to "The Pilgrim fathers and mothers," "The Pilgrim sons and daughters," "To the woman who invented pumpkin pie," "To the memory of the turkey," and a lot of others. There was nothing brilliant about the toasts or about the speeches made upon them, but they amused every one and added to the enjoyment of the day. And anything which will do that is not to be despised.

I have said you must make Thanksgiving for



ANYTHING WE DO TO MAKE OTHERS HAPPY REACTS ON OURSELVES

You will have no difficulty in thinking up good mottoes or in finding suitable pictures. A girl at a spinning wheel, a picture of a log cabin or of a ship in the midst of a rough sea, a knot of trailing arbutus, a field of corn or a stalk of it, a fat pumpkin, a turkey—there is no end to the things you can use.

As for the inscriptions, write anything that is suitable. There are two or three books filled with suggestions for such inscriptions. If you wish, I will send you the name of one. Among them are such as "When the frost is on the pumpkin," "Let good digestion wait on appetite," "Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends," "Eat, drink and be merry" and a host of others, some more appropriate than the above to this special day.

others, and it should no, stop with home people.

Don't you know some one who is having a hard time to get along, who is poor or sick or lonely, or all three, to whom you could bring a bit of Thanksgiving? Look about you and see. If you can find such an one, or more than one, and send on the message of cheer, you may be pretty sure that when the last Thursday of November comes around, and you begin going over your causes for gratitude, you will feel that you have an entirely new and a very lovely reason for thankfulness.

Christine Terhune Herrick

Little Helps From Mrs. Herrick to Her Girl Friends Some of Their Questions Answered

HERE is a word to the girl who wishes to earn money in order to help herself over a tight place or to supplement her income. I have received a suggestion which I will send to any girl in need of it, and which supplies a simple way of making money without having to go through a course of training in advance. If you will send me a stamped and self-addressed envelope, I shall be happy to pass the suggestion on.

I am a young girl and am just having my room repapered. The paper has a light ground, with tiny rosebuds on it. I want to get new curtains and thought of soft silk ones, with pink flowers in them. Would that kind be suitable for a bedroom? I would like your advice in this.

ROSE.

The soft silk curtains would be very pretty for the bedroom; although I must say that personally I incline rather more to a plain curtain in sheer white net or Swiss muslin, plain or with a dot. It is rather a mistake to have anything in a bedroom that cannot be taken down and laundered frequently, and silk is always a little of a problem when it comes to washing it. It can be done, of course, but it requires care, or the silk will turn yellow or become stiff. The wash curtains can go into the tub as long as they last and come out looking better each time, so long as they are not roughly handled.

Another objection to the figured curtains is that you already have a figure on the paper, and a multiplying of designs makes a confusion that is anything but restful.

A few girls have organized a literary club. We intend to study and read up the standard authors, but are unable to decide upon a suitable name. Would you kindly make a few suggestions?

Also, tell me, if you will, of some good, interesting but inexpensive way in which I could entertain the club at my home. I want something out of the common, but am in need of some timely suggestions, and so I will greatly appreciate anything you do for me.

YOUR INTERESTED READER.

Why not call your club the Round Robins, or simply "The Readers"? High-sounding names are usually a little absurd, don't you think? Or is there not some local name, like "The Highland Square Reading Club," or some other name chosen from the quarter in which most of you live?

You might have a library party—which would be "bookish" and can be worked out in several ways. Each member could come as a book—not necessarily dressing for the part, but suggesting it in some

way, or as some well-known character from books you all know, or feel you ought to know.

A party given on the first mentioned plan was amusing. One girl carried a tiny hoe; everybody was puzzled and puzzled until she disclosed her identity by saying, "I've an hoe" (Ivanhoe). A girl in a red dress said she was "Under the Red Robe"; another girl, whose hair was fearfully and wonderfully got up with the Russian and Japanese flags for decorations, said she was "Under Two Flags." But the hardest to guess was a girl who carried several sable-tails very conspicuously. She was representing (she was a very small girl) "A Little Book of Profitable Tales." But the play in titles is endless, and always amusing.

The other way, for each member to come as a character, is very jolly, too, but is more trouble, as the characters should be very well made up.

But have the book-idea in some way.

You might even have a little play, asking the members to help you.

If you need prizes for anything, get the next book that is to be discussed in your club, or one of the attractive little new editions (they're inexpensive) of Shakespeare and the standard writers. If you know any one who recites, get her to recite from something you've been studying, or perhaps there's some one who could sing. If your club is a Shakespeare club, there are plenty of lovely songs from the plays, while almost every one of the poets has some poem set to music.

For refreshments, ices and cakes and coffee are simple; or sandwiches and coffee, or any simple combination. A "literary salad" is old but always jolly, and should be served with the bona fide refreshments. A bowl is passed, filled with lettuce leaves made out of green tissue paper, with familiar quotations written on attached slips. Make each person read his leaf out, and have everybody guess the author; or have passed numbered cards and have a prize for the one who guesses most.

Or if you will send me a self-addressed envelope, with stamp, I will give you the name of a couple of little books that contain suggestions for just such entertainments as you wish.

Dear Mrs. Herrick:
Your letter to "the girl who must work for a living" set me thinking hard until I've finally summoned enough courage to write you my problem.
I have just passed my twentieth birthday, and, quite

suddenly, find that I'll have to begin to support myself. Why is too long a story to burden you with.

My relatives are well off, but hate poverty with the sort of hatred that refuses to associate with it. They resent my working, yet the only help they offer is for me to go down into the country and live on a forlorn old farm with two old people. My life has always been in the city; I love it; and, besides, I hate to be packed away out of sight as though my being poor were a disgrace. It isn't.

Yet I don't know how in the world to make a living—there seems to be nothing I can do. I can't sew well, nor teach music, nor do any one thing that it would "count." My only gift is a very useless thing—they tell me I have tact. I'd rather be able to write or sew. I'd make something with that kind of gift.

Can't you help me find something to do? For, indeed, I must, or go wild.

Hope that you will answer soon, I am
(A girl friend, though you never knew me before.)
MARY C.

I understand just how you feel, my dear. Poverty is no disgrace, and if I were in your place I would hate to be tucked off as though I had done something to be ashamed of. More than that, I am a sort of a cockney myself, and love the city, and would not care to have the country for a steady diet the year around. So you have my sympathy.

As to the way to make money, that is another affair. I don't make as light as you do of the gift of tact. I think it is a great thing, and ought to help you to do something to earn your living. Have you ever thought of trying to conduct children's parties? If you have tact there is a way open for you. Can you tell good stories? Can you read aloud well?

There is a place for such a girl as you are—one who is well connected socially—at afternoon teas and other functions of the sort. Think of taking a position as a parish visitor or in connection with one of the big boards, like the associated charities. These positions do not pay very much money, but they mean self-support, at any rate.

A good suggestion has been sent me for girls who wish to make money, and if you will send me a stamped and self-addressed envelope I will write to you about it.

The following letter is from a girl who has thought up several ways of earning a little something:

Dear Mrs. Herrick:
I have been reading your letters to girls and have become so interested that I feel I must write to you. I read your advice to that other girl, and, as I am interested in her welfare, I take the liberty of offering some suggestions.

Although I have yet a very good home to shelter me I have discovered a few ways of making money. They are: Burnt wood making, making raffia hats, painting, and making and selling fudge and candy. If she has a taste for any of these she can make quite a little extra money on them. She can get work clerking and work at these other lines after hours. One can demand a big price for burnt wood.

I now wish to ask some questions: I expect to give a party, and as I do not know of very many games to play, I am going to appeal to you. Please tell me of some amusing and interesting ones in next Sunday's paper. Which would be nice, an evening or afternoon party, and what would be some inexpensive souvenirs to give? Would it be nice to have both boys and girls, and what would be nice and simple for lunch? Please tell the kind of invitations to send out. Hoping my advice will help that other girl, I remain, one of your girls,
S. B.

Did you ever try a string party? They are very amusing. The first requisite is a lot of small favors, and the next, several balls of twine. Each favor has a string attached to it, and is then put somewhere about the house in an inconspicuous place. The string is now carried all over the house, wound about this and that, and twisted around all sorts of objects and obstacles. Yards and scores of yards of it are used before you finally tie a tag on the end of it. This may bear a name or not, as you please. As each guest comes to the house he is given the end of a string, and when all are assembled it is the task of each to find his present. This leads to a great deal of fun. If you choose you may give a prize to the one who soonest disentangles his string, and a booby prize to the one who comes out last. You see it is conducted on much the same principle as an egg hunt or a nut hunt, but it is newer and more amusing.

If you want to have boys, it would be better to have the party in the evening. As to having girls alone, that is another matter you must decide for yourself. If you know nice boys, have them; if not, confine yourself to girls.

For supper I would have a good salad, bread and butter, sandwiches, cake and chocolate. That is all that is necessary, although you could have ice cream instead of the chocolate; or, in addition to it, if you wished something more elaborate.

There are all sorts of little Japanese souvenirs that are attractive. Tiny fans and umbrellas, hats and stickpins, baskets, pin cushions and the like come in well.

I wish to thank you very cordially for the advice you give the other girls. Such suggestions as you make should be of value to many, and yours is

just the sort of letter I wish to get. It is direct, practical and helpful. Let me hear from you again.

My Dear Mrs. Herrick:
I wonder if you know what it means to be all alone, away from family and friends—studying music—and the temptations that come to a girl who studies?

Sometimes it's very hard to go on working steadily. I feel as if every incentive had left, and that I might as well be gay and careless as the rest. They seem happy, and I'm not.

I try to think of the home-people, and of what their disappointment in me will be if I don't succeed; but they are very far away, and pleasure is very near. Yet, if I indulge in it, I shan't be able to do good work—and there I am!

Have you ever been alone? Do you know how frightened I get facing it all? Affectionately yours,
HELEN R.

I can feel just how it hurts to be alone like that. And you feel that you are only young, and that it is hard not to have your good time. I am going to preach to you. You know all the arguments already. But I am going to appeal to your common sense and to say that it is a mistake ever to do any thing that will make you uncomfortable afterward.

Believe me, that will be the most lasting effect of yielding to temptation and doing something against your conscience.

The one person you can't get away from is yourself, and think what it would be to live with yourself when you had lost self-respect! Keep up your courage and stand fast. One of these days things will come out right. I wonder if there is not some other girl who has gone through a like experience who can speak a word of encouragement and tell your conscience.

Dear Mrs. Herrick:
I am just 13, and am about to take a position as typewriter in one of the big office buildings. Are there certain rules a girl is expected to follow? How am I to speak to my employer, and do I treat the other girls as if I knew them the way I know girls now? I mean, the ones I meet in a social way?
Please tell me what to do—I'm just a little frightened.
Your friend,
LOUIE R.

Be courteous and friendly to all with whom you are brought into contact, but don't be too ready to make intimacies. Avoid anything that will look like being exclusive or disagreeable, and show yourself ready to be friendly, but don't make close friends until you have a chance to know the girls better. It is easier to avoid intimacies than to break them off.