

## FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY OF HAWAII TERRITORY

### Good Cheer To Reign.

### Honolulu Will Rest And Enjoy Itself.

(By Mrs. Weston Conroy.)

IN THE UNITED STATES, Thanksgiving and the turkey have come to be pretty generally associated together. The pumpkin pie is a relic of early Puritan days. The cranberry sauce, however, has not so honorable a history. And if we wish to be very ancient indeed, we must go back to old England and the days of Charles Lamb and add a sucking pig to the Thanksgiving menu.

A few words relating to the early history of this festival may not be amiss here. Thanksgiving was not original with the Pilgrim Fathers, as many suppose. It was known in Europe before the Reformation. Days were set apart for giving thanks to God, especially in the Church of England, and they became a fixed custom among English Protestants long before the Pilgrim fathers thought of observing any particular day in any particular manner. It is a well authenticated fact that the early Puritans did not—as is popularly supposed—observe the first Thanksgiving Day in New England.

The Popham colonists were the first, as early data show. They publicly thanked God—in church—in the Thanksgiving service of the Church of England.

Thanksgiving week in those days was observed in December. That was in 1621. The second Pilgrim Thanksgiving was ordered and observed two years later, in July.

It was certainly not until February 26, 1630, that the first public Thanksgiving was held in Boston. It was, in truth, a veritable thanksgiving, in which the whole town united, rejoicing over the ships which came in laden with the good things of this world and bringing new arrivals in the shape of old and tried friends. No wonder the pious old town went mad for a time over their good fortune.

From that time until 1864 there were twenty-two public Thanksgivings appointed in Massachusetts; that is to say, about one in two years. A little arithmetical figuring will prove beyond doubt that it was not a yearly custom at that period.

It was in 1875, I think, that no public Thanksgiving was observed throughout the Pilgrim States, nor do I believe it possible to state definitely when the great



UNDER THE TREES IN HAWAII.

feast-day became a fixed annual observance in New England, from whence it spread to other States.

Two Thanksgivings Days were held in the year 1742. Thanksgiving Day in Rhode Island was observed on June 18, 1836. In Connecticut it was certainly not regularly observed until 1716; which goes to show that the festival was held on other days besides a Thursday.

Finally the Puritans made Thanksgiving an annual feast and a day of family reunion, and then it was that it became a fixture in the month of November.

The Massachusetts Historical Society is the happy possessor of a proclamation announcing a Thanksgiving for a victory in King Phillip's War. It was in the following year, 1677, that the first Thanks-

giving proclamation was printed. When Congress ordered the eight memorable days of Thanksgiving, it is well known they fell in the months of April, May, July and December.

But it was not until September, 1789, that in the House of Representatives it was moved that, "The President be requested to recommend a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, in acknowledgment of the many signal favors of Almighty God, and especially his affording them the opportunity, peaceably, to establish a constitution of government for their safety and happiness."

It raised quite a little flutter in the House did this asking for a "foreign custom" to be made a fixture in the new States.

According to history, President Washington issued a proclamation on October 3, 1789, and designated as Thanksgiving Day, November 26 of that year.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation from a Governor or a State other than a New England one, came in 1817. The day, however, was not a fixed holiday.

President Lincoln is credited with suggesting that the 6th day of August be set apart to be observed as a day of National thanksgiving, praise and prayer to Almighty God. The following year the President issued another proclamation. Thus they came to be regarded as annual festivals. They have been fixtures since that date.

At any rate, we owe the Puritans a large debt of gratitude for the reunion of the family and the consequent good things that the gourmet enjoys and the good housekeeper should know how to prepare. History tells us that the Puritans banished the Englishman's glory, "roast beef," from the banquet and substituted turkey.

But if you care for a bit of old English color, by all means get a sucking pig as the piece de resistance. The following is an Old World tried recipe for roasting one:

Make a dressing; stuff the pig into its natural shape; sew it up; bend the fore feet backward, skewering them into position. Dry well and dredge it with flour. Put it to roast in a little hot water slightly salted. Baste with butter and water three times, as the pig slowly warms, and afterward with the drippings. When it begins to smoke, rub it once in five minutes with a cloth dipped in melted butter. This keeps the skin tender and soft. A pig a month old—the best age—will take nearly two hours of roasting with a brisk, steady fire.

When the pig is cooked to a rich brown, take him up, place him in a bed of parsley and pale green celery tops. Tie a garland of fragrant herbs—or a lei of flowers—about its neck; put a roasted apple, stuck with cloves, in its mouth, and you will have no occasion to regret your trouble, I'll warrant.

The proper stuffing for a roast pig is made of a cup and a half of grated bread crumbs, an ounce and a half of suet, a big bunch of parsley, minced fine, one and a half teaspoons of powdered sage, pepper, salt, and nutmeg; a little thyme, almost a glass full of Madeira or sherry, the juice of a large lemon, three tablespoons of melted butter, a cup and a half of oyster liquor and three well-beaten eggs.

Thanksgiving Day in New England, as the writer remembers it, is a thoroughly enjoyable day. It is not at all infrequent to arise in the morning and find a heavy fall of snow covering the earth. The house is crowded with relatives and friends—a merry, festive lot, eager for the activities of the day to begin. Then comes the sleigh-ride—possibly several sleighs—for those who are going to church. And then, wrapped in furs, the crisp air tingling and crimsoning the cheeks, they are off to the prancing of horses and jingling of bells.

And oh, the dining-room, with its blazing, crackling logs, its many-paned windows and its ceiling-beamed room in old English oak! And the fun, the laughter, the jokes, as old as the hills and yet ever new! Then the last delight of all—the dance in the evening after the children have been tucked away for the night, and the final finish with Sir Roger de Coverly, in which even the "old folks" join!

After all is said and done we may well be grateful to the Puritans of New England for having handed down to us rather a different kind of Thanksgiving to that indulged in before the Reformation which, apparently, was all prayer and no feast.



FURS IN NEW ENGLAND.

