

Torii Teller

Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan
Vol. 20 No. 58
Nov. 21, 1975

Something to be thankful for
(See page 5)

These Thanksgiving artifacts, from a display currently being shown in the Station Commissary, were furnished by the grade school students of Matthew C. Perry School. (Photo by Sgt. Ernie Walter).



The Honorable Dr. David S. Potter, Under Secretary of the Navy, arrived here Nov. 13 and was greeted and escorted on a one-day familiarization tour of various Wing and Station facilities by MajGen. Norman W. Gourley, 1stMAW commanding general. The Under Secretary departed for MCAS Futema, Okinawa, the following morning.

Railway ups Bullet ticket fares

People who ride the trains will feel a small twinge of pain in the wallets because Japan National Railway raised the express train fares.

The normal fares for local trains are not affected. However, users will in some cases pay almost double the old price to ride the express train.

The increase will hike superexpress train fares 24 per cent, regular express fares 38 per cent, pullman fares 52 per cent and first class express fares 92 per cent.

The increases will attempt to offset large deficits the Railway is experiencing.

Hoffman spins old man's tale at Kokusai

For fans who are into either Dustin Hoffman flicks or Woody Allen films, this week is probably what they have been waiting for.

Headlining the bill at the Subaru is Dustin Hoffman as "Little Big Man" which co-stars Faye Dunaway. Hoffman portrays a 101-year-old man who recounts his life in the Old West over a period of years and with himself as the central character. The co-feature is "Prime Cut" starring Lee Marvin and Gene Hackman. Marvin plays a mob enforcer from Chicago while Hackman is a Kansas City gangland leader who seems to have gone astray from the central organization in his business of white slavery. Both features are scheduled to run through Tuesday. Beginning Wednesday, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" with Paul Newman and Robert Redford will begin its run for the following week. "Juggernaut," starring Richard Harris and Omar Sharif, is the co-feature.

The Kokusai Theater in Iwakuni has scheduled three features for the upcoming weekend and Thanksgiving Day: "The Super Cops" with Ron Leibman; "The Spiral Staircase" and "The Sleeper" with Woody Allen and Diane Keaton. All three films will run through next Friday.

News briefs

Thanksgiving meal

For Americans who will miss the traditional Thanksgiving meal while they are in Japan, the Fleet Reserve Association will have a turkey-and-all-the-trimmings dinner Thanksgiving Day. The cost is ¥1500 for adults and ¥800 for children younger than seven. Reservations must be made at the FRA by 4 p.m. Wednesday; call 21-4893. Dinner will be served from 3-7 p.m. Thursday.

Christmas mailing

With Christmas just around the corner, the Station Post Office reminds everyone to mail packages and Christmas cards early to insure delivery by Christmas Day.

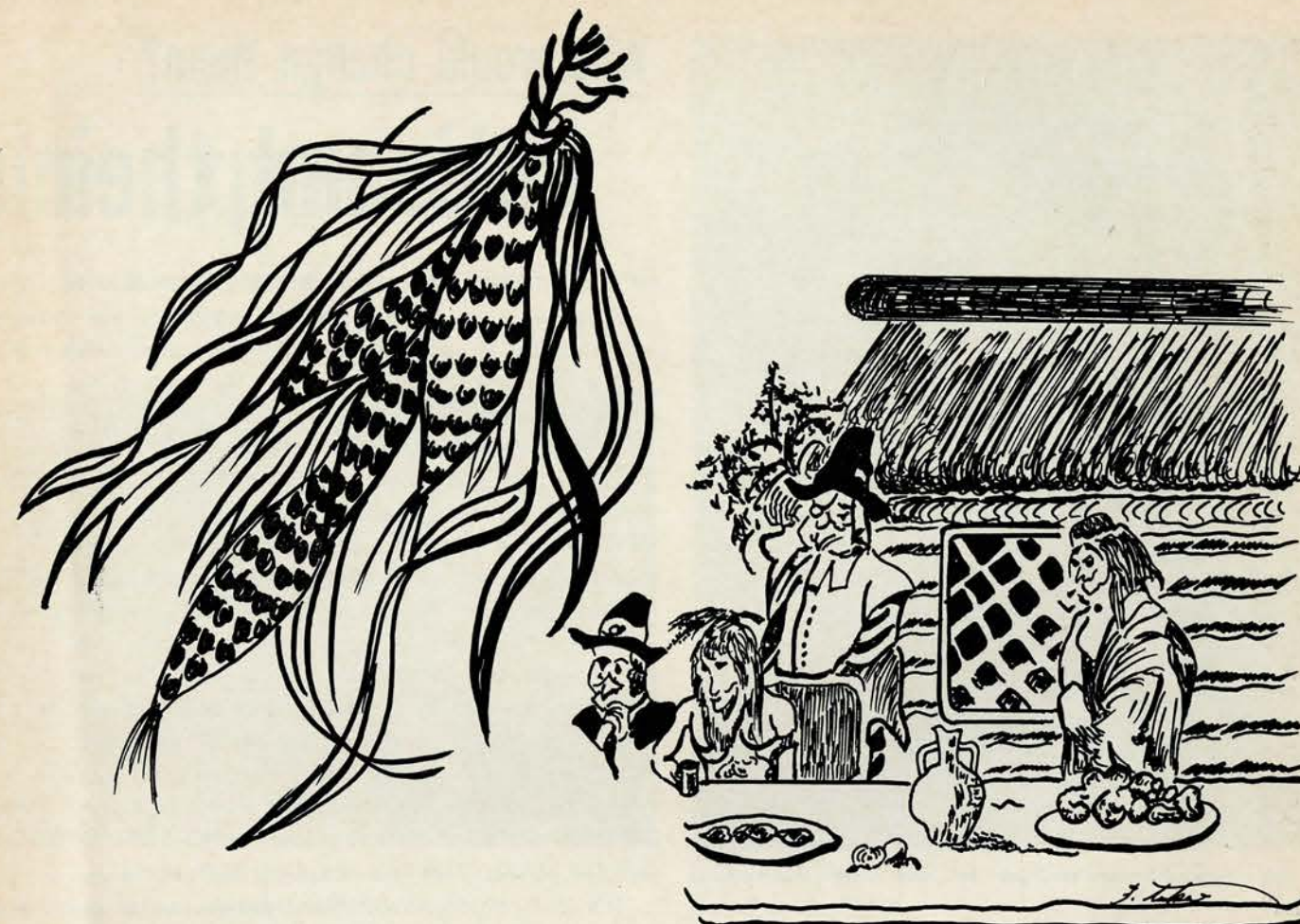
Mailing dates to keep in mind are: all letters, packages and Christmas cards to be sent air mail must be posted no later than Dec. 14; first class letters, packages and cards should be on their way by Dec. 10; parcels traveling by parcel air lift (PAL) must be posted by Dec. 9, and parcels going space available (SAM) should be sent no later than Dec. 1.

Swap meet reset

The Staff Wives Club swap meet that was rained out Nov. 15 will be held Saturday on the parade field in front of Station headquarters from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone having items they would like to sell may participate but sellers will be charged \$2 to set up shop.

Total \$ for CFC

The final tabulations of the 1975 Overseas Combined Federal Campaign show that more than 3,900 contributors donated \$39,080 in cash and pledges. Seventy per cent of those stationed here made contributions during the drive.



No guests for dinner: a reason to be thankful

Story by Sgt. Lee A. Buchschacher

It seems I can't celebrate Thanksgiving properly — at Iwakuni. I didn't give it much thought until my neighbors, who are Japanese, asked how Americans celebrate Thanksgiving.

I first explained the historical significance of the Pilgrims, Indians and the Mayflower. I went on to say that the family awakens Thanksgiving morning and eats a light Continental breakfast. Then they go to church and, after an unprecedented 45-minute sermon, they return home.

Relatives begin to arrive around 1 p.m. You know, grandma, grandpa, mom, dad, all your brothers and sisters, along with your unruly nieces and nephews come trooping in. This means in-laws aren't far behind.

Now, the proper thing to do, after the coats are put away, is to find an empty room into which to "sentence" the children. All your guests seat themselves in the comfortable chairs but you have to sit on a wobbly bar stool because your 13-year-old nephew, who is obviously too mature to play with the other kids, sprawls out in your best chair.

As you weave back and forth on the stool, you try and take orders for Thanksgiving Day drinks. And, when you think you've finally got the orders straight, the doorbell rings. There they are...the other relatives, the ones you always make a point of not inviting. Aunt Nettie, a terrible gossip, and Uncle Harry, who thinks he's an authority on every subject, charge in. Harry's not bad, for a guy who's prematurely retired

Art by Takeo Funamura

with a tongue that still puts in a 45-hour work week.

Now you're all comfortably seated again, one big happy family, ready to try and figure out the many blessings you have. The main one is that Thanksgiving comes but once a year. Then someone reminds you the big football game is on. So, being a perfect host, you turn on the television. Here, an interesting thing happens. Half the guests are watching the game while the others are concentrating on talking louder than the person(s) they're interrupting. So, the battle rages between the TV viewers and the talkers. You thought Howard Cosell could out talk anyone but you find he's no match for your relatives.

By this time, you have a splitting headache. But your loving wife, who also has a headache because she's been slaving over a hot stove all afternoon while you've been "enjoying yourself," requests you announce dinner is served.

Somewhere between the Thanksgiving prayer and the pumpkin pie, you and your wife make some interesting discoveries. One is that the 50-pound turkey isn't large enough, especially when Uncle Harry ate both drumsticks himself. Two, no mortal can buy enough whipped cream to satisfy the kids. And three, someone remarked that the family ought to get together more often, so your loving wife invites them all back for Christmas Day.

No, I can't celebrate Thanksgiving like I normally do this year. Now that's something to be thankful for.



Who would change them?

Kids and their joyous expressions

Story photos and by Sgt. Ernie Walter

Have you ever wondered what thoughts — are behind the countless facial expressions common to young children?

Are they joyfully grinning at the contortions and odd sounds we employ to amuse them or are they so amazed they feel compelled to smile out of sympathy?

How often has it been discovered that tearful frowning or downright hollering was not because of an uncomfortable situation or a justifiable plea for nutrition. Instead...it soon became apparent, after months of methodical trial and error testing, it was merely a means of commanding the attention of all within earshot to proclaim: "I've got your number so pick me up or I'll scream the walls down." Children, more than the most gifted actor, have that innate ability to choose the appropriate facial expression to fit any occasion. Smiles when their parents are the only persons watching; screams when grandma wants a hug, or terminal crankiness when a distant cousin travels 1,000 miles just to see the lovely child he's heard so much about.

It's that unpredictability that proves to be one of their

most precious attributes. A veritable storehouse of humorous statements and glorious expressions.

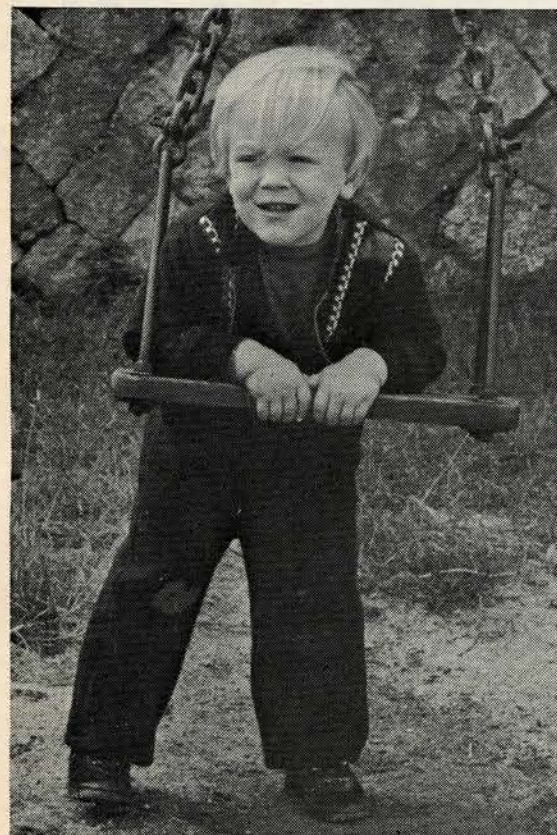
Who would change them if they could?



"I can't believe it. She just finished a roast beef sandwich and now she expects me to eat creamed spinach!"



"One more remark like that and I'll bust you like this here animal cracker!"



"Orders or no orders...this swing goes with me!"



"My group had 30 per cent fewer cavities!"



"Whoever said finger sucking is a sign of insecurity never tasted my delicious fingers!"



Shirley Temple...eat your heart out!



"Are you following me?"