

# 1945 November 19-25

## Giving Thanks in 1945



(La Crosse Tribune, 1945 November 22, page 1)

Thanksgiving Day 1945 was the first one for several years not celebrated under the clouds of war.

How different was this one from those during the war?

The day after Thanksgiving in 1942, about 200 La Crosse men left for induction into the armed forces. Sixteen months later, forty-four of those men were still together in one unit after action in the invasion of Sicily and the campaign in Italy.<sup>1</sup>

For Private Jimmy Yamane of the 100th Battalion that had trained at Camp McCoy, Thanksgiving Day 1943 was spent "shivering on a high hill under enemy fire" in Italy. His holiday meal was [C-rations](#). In an early January 1944 letter to Hazel Lawrynk of Stoddard ("Mom Hazel" to this soldier from Hawaii), Yamane wrote that he crawled three miles over rocky hills to reach an aid station after being wounded by shell fragments in his left calf. His Purple Heart medal was tossed to him while he was lying face down on a stretcher.<sup>2</sup>

Private First Class Gerald Haldorson of 2121 La Crosse Street, fighting in the hills of Leyte with the 32nd Division, did have a tin of turkey on Thanksgiving Day 1944. But it had to be shared among three men, and "the trimmings" consisted of [K-rations](#). This was at the height of the monsoon season, so rain-soaked jungle substituted for dining-room ambiance.<sup>3</sup>

The War Department made a good-faith effort to get holiday meals to troops all over the world, even in prisoner-of-war camps. For Thanksgiving in 1944, the military supply lines moved more than 35 million pounds of turkey, one million pounds of mincemeat, 18 million pounds of cranberries, and nineteen percent of the entire production of pumpkin puree to men and women in the armed forces. Twelve-ounce cans of turkey were shipped to Switzerland for distribution by the Red Cross to POW camps.<sup>4</sup> It was claimed that turkey was supplied to every U.S. soldier on the frontlines in the European Theater.<sup>5</sup>

***This Thanksgiving Day***

**For many veterans, this Thanksgiving Day is the one they have dreamed about while overseas. A real old-fashioned Thanksgiving with all the trimmings, shared with the ones they love best. On this day America and her allies give thanks for victory.**

**FARMERS STATE BANK**  
Member of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
**BANGOR, WISCONSIN**

*(Bangor Independent, 1945 November 22, page 2)*

With the huge requirements of the armed forces, civilians had to do without some traditional foods in 1944. The few turkeys that were available were "grade C" meaning most were "rejected by the armed services because of broken wings, improper fattening, underweight or other defects." The Office of Price Administration set a maximum price of 47 cents a pound for grade C turkeys.<sup>6</sup>

In 1945, civilian shoppers were hampered by a general shortage of meat. Most meat markets in La Crosse had just "sausages, hamburger, and wieners" available for sale. Butter for lefsa, squash, sweet potatoes, and dinner rolls was also in short supply.<sup>7</sup>

# GOBBLE UP THESE Thanksgiving BUYS



For the first time in four years we, in America, can truly celebrate Thanksgiving Day in joy and with light hearts. The war is over and we can look forward to the return of our soldiers and thoughts of a brave new world and lasting Peace. We enjoy the good food of the day... the warm companionship of our family and friends... the laughter of the children... and we bow our heads in thankfulness to God. For we understand now, more than ever, the deep motivations of the first Thanksgiving Day over 300 years ago.



**LIMA BEANS** GREEN 22¢  
Green Valley Brand 19-oz. can

**PEAS** GREEN GOODIES 15¢  
Sweet, No. 4 Slice, 20-oz. can In Salad or with Carrots

**CORN** WHOLE KERNEL 15¢  
20-oz. can

**BEETS** SLICED SUR 15¢  
28-oz. can. Way Not Serve Them Pickled!

**SOUP** Campbell's TOMATO 19¢  
You could Serve This as Cream of Tomato, Too 10 1/2-oz. cans

**MIXED NUTS** 59¢  
per lb.

**A-1 SAUCE** 8-oz. Bottle 33¢

**B-V Extract** Wilson's, 2 1/4-oz. Jar 27¢

**Mushrooms** First State, Picosa, 4-oz. Tin 39¢

**FLAKES** Parsley, Onion or Celery per pkg. 10¢

**MORTON'S SEASONING** Meat and Poultry, 3-oz. pkg. 13¢

**MUSTARD** GOLD BOND 9¢ | **ALMONDS** SHELLED 63¢  
Horseradish, Dressing or Salad Style, 8-oz. Jar. 8-oz. Cello Pkg.

**PEANUTS** SALTED 17¢  
Spanish, 1/2-lb.

**BUTTER** PEANUT 29¢  
Gold Bond, lb. jar

**CIGARETTES** Popular Brands 15¢  
16 Pkz. Carton

**BLACK TEA** LIPTON'S 27¢  
4-oz. package

**FRUIT CAKE** \$1.59  
Rum and Brandy Flavored 5-lb. tin

**CRANBERRIES** per lb. 33¢  
Florida

**JUICE ORANGES** 33¢  
Size, 252, doz.

**CELERY** 18¢  
Crisp, each

**LETTUCE** 13¢  
each

**GRAPEFRUIT** Tex. Seedless 4 for 25¢  
Size 80

**IDAHO POTATOES** 72¢  
Russets 25 lbs. for

**PIE PUMPKINS** 4¢  
Fresh per lb.

**RY-KRISP** Regular 23¢  
12-oz. package

**SOUP** 33¢  
Chicken, Rice, Columbia 10 1/2-oz. Cans

**BAR-EX MIXER** 29¢  
Sweetened, 28-oz. Bottle

**OLIVES** 13¢  
Ripe, Bell's Chopped, 4 1/2-oz. tin Use with Creamed Carrots or in Tartar Sauce

**POPCORN** 19¢  
To Pop, 10-oz. pkg.

**BUTTER** HOLMEN 17¢  
For All the Added Flavor!

**NOODLES** GRANDMA'S 17¢  
12-oz. pkg.

**HEMO** 59¢  
1-lb. Glass Jar

**CHILI DINNER** COLLEGE INN 15¢  
9 1/2-oz. pkg.

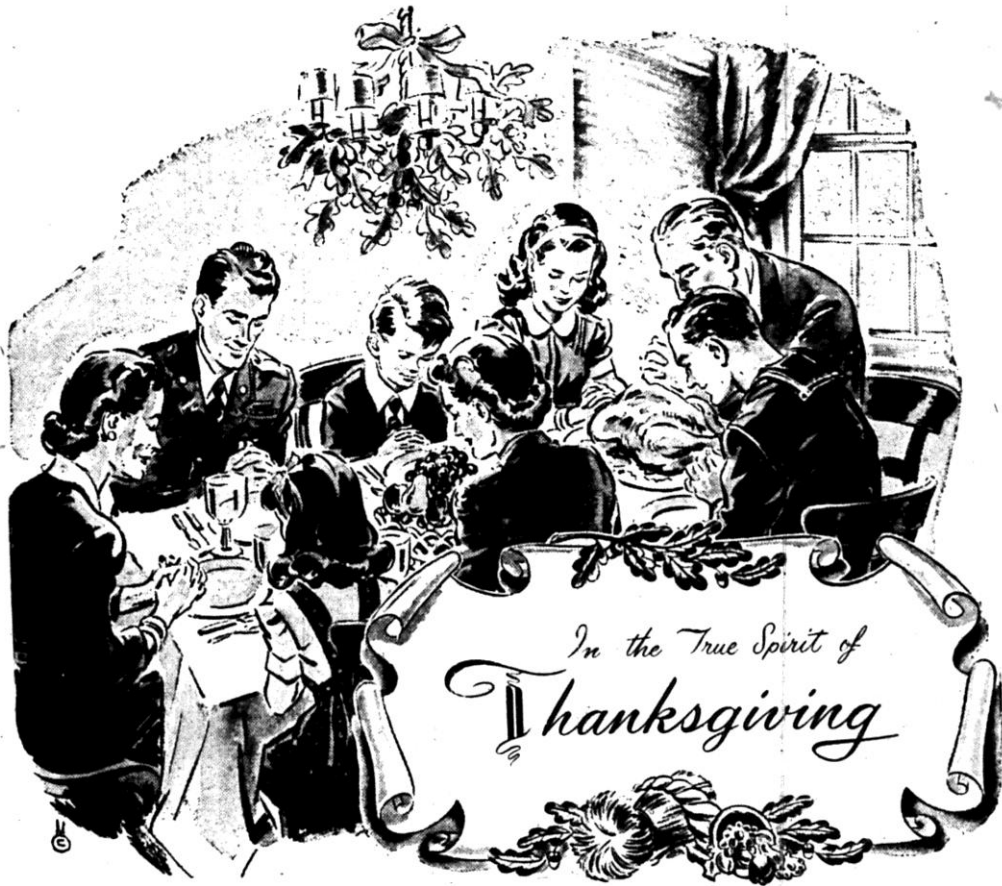
**GOLD BOND COFFEE** 33¢  
Regular or Drip Grind, 1-lb. Glass Jar

**SOUP MIXES** 17¢  
Jenny Lee Chicken, Beef or Vegetable 2 3/4-oz. pkgs.

**SHOP AT YOUR NEAREST AMERICAN-WAY STORE**

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| <b>ED. W. ABICHT</b><br>1215 Redford Phone 888      | <b>BALBUZZI GROCERY</b><br>1215 Parkman Phone 947       | <b>AL FERRIS GROCERY</b><br>1323 Charles Phone 943 | <b>GRAP'S GROCERY</b><br>1201 Loomis Phone 145           | <b>KRAVA'S GROCERY</b><br>2520 South Ave. Phone 2285-J     | <b>PEOPLE'S GROCERY</b><br>1911 La Crosse Phone 224 | <b>RENNERDORF, A. C.</b><br>1725 Market Phone 221         |
| <b>A. &amp; R. GROCERY</b><br>1224 Badger Phone 727 | <b>BAKALARS BROS.</b><br>Gro. Dept. 251 25th. Phone 273 | <b>FRITZ GROCERY</b><br>226 South 2nd Phone 285    | <b>HAYLICEK GROCERY</b><br>1422 South 7th                | <b>LIBERTY ST. GROCERY</b><br>24 La Crosse, Wis. Phone 159 | <b>POEHLING GROCERY</b><br>1212 Loomis Phone 1432   | <b>SCIBORSKI, FRANK</b><br>1261 West Ave. S. Phone 2228-J |
|   |   |  | <b>HILLVIEW GROCERY</b><br>26th and La Crosse Phone 2289 | <b>H. M. MILLER &amp; SON</b><br>1214 Market Phone 252     | <b>RAMSEY GROCERY</b><br>1121 Liberty Phone 227     | <b>SMALE'S DAIRY STORE</b><br>212 20th Ave. S. Phone 212  |
|   |   |  |  |  | <b>RAY'S FOOD SHOP</b><br>212 Market Phone 2462     | <b>STAVLD'S MARKET</b><br>1212 La Crosse Phone 242        |

# American Way Food Stores



**R**EUNITED at last! Heads bowed in prayer of thanksgiving: sons and daughters returned from the wars to the warm love of a mother's aching heart—a father's strong, silent yearning—the eager adoration of younger brothers and sisters. The world at Peace! Is this not reason

enough for heads to be bowed in prayer—prayers of thankfulness for having lived in a land that escaped the ravaging hand of a deadly enemy. On this Thanksgiving, above all, our first since the end of a tragic war, there is much for which to be grateful—much for which to thank the Almighty.

*This Thanksgiving Message Sponsored by*  
**LA CROSSE BREWERIES, INC.**

*Brewers of Peerless Amber Beer*

LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

(*La Crosse Tribune*, 1945 November 21, page 3)

THE LA CROSSE TRIBUNE, T



## LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.—James 1:3.

## Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING is, by tradition, a holiday of family feasting and family reunion. As such it is the happiest of any we have known for the last four years.

Soldiers and sailors by the hundreds of thousands have come home since the last Thanksgiving, men who were fighting then in Germany and the Philippines and the danger-infested skies and oceans, and wondering when and if there would be another Thanksgiving at home.

Today the reunion is a reality for them. And so in countless homes a deep, personal gratitude is added to the day's good food and good spirits.

There are new, intangible trimmings for the turkey that will make this a memorable as well as a happy holiday.

Thanksgiving is also a day traditionally marked by a national counting of blessings. This year we count victory and the total is nearly complete, nor any less impressive because it is so quickly computed.

Beyond victory this day does not offer too many reasons for rejoicing. There is scant joy in many parts of the world. And here at home the peace and plenty so painfully won, the well-being so earnestly desired are surrounded by hostile forces.

There is unrest and anger and confusion, and above them all hovers the invisible threat of the new and deadly atomic force which the world must live with.

So the rejoicing is solemn at best. But perhaps that is in the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims who first celebrated this day 324 years ago had little material cause for celebration. They, too, were surrounded by hostile forces. But the worst was behind them. They had freedom, and they had survived.

Their descendants, and the millions who have come to join those descendants in the land so bitterly won, have also managed to preserve freedom and survive.

Today our problems are greater, but we are stronger in number to cope with them. The difference is in magnitude and not kind.

The essential qualities which have brought this country thus far are the same ones which brought the Plymouth colonists through their first winter.

They are the qualities which are still needed today and which, we may hope, offer our best chance of continued survival and progress.

For all the talk of food, that, of course, was not then and is not now the most important part of Thanksgiving. Many thousands of men and women were home, safe, and secure with their families, even though many thousands more were still in distant lands. Even those who were absent from the Thanksgiving table could at least enjoy the holiday in peace and security. That alone was enough to be extra thankful for in November 1945.

Jeff Rand

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### Sources & Notes:

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<sup>1</sup> "44 County Men Train, Go Overseas Together To Take Part In Invasion," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 April 9, page 9.

<sup>2</sup> "'Tossed Me' Purple Heart, Soldier Injured In Italian Warfare Writes," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 January 16, page 5.

<sup>3</sup> "Holiday Period Drastically Different For One Soldier," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1945 November 25, page 12.

<sup>4</sup> "35 Million Pounds Of Turkey Go To Men In Armed Forces," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 October 5, page 9.

<sup>5</sup> "Doughboys To Be Fighting For Their Lives On Christmas Day," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 December 23, page 1.

<sup>6</sup> "Civilians To Get Grade C Turkeys, Says OPA," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1944 October 31, page 4.

<sup>7</sup> "Meat, What There Is Of It, Rapidly Disappears In City," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1945 November 24, page 1.