

# Extra! Extra!

Fall 2019

## He Said, She Said Friday after Thanksgiving at 14 Fairhill Dr. in the 1970s

By Barb Nicolls

The Friday after Thanksgiving at 14 Fairhill Dr. didn't start out as a big deal. No bingo. Only one Turkey Bowl. Just a ham dinner and some miscellaneous activities. One year there was disco dancing! In 1979 Dad was still going to the office in the morning, which would be unheard of once the family gathering became an extravaganza involving days of preparation. Curiously, the first Friday after Thanksgiving at 14 Fairhill

Dr. was before we even moved in. Some of the Turkey Bowl athletes slept at the house before the big game at Pearson Park on Saturday. Could the first football thrown in the backyard have been that weekend? The Young Bucks must've benefited from this overnight retreat because they beat the Over 40s that year.

To provide insight into the formative years of this family tradition, I have transcribed the diary en-

tries of Dad and Grandma Nicolls. Did Grandma really like ham or something because she mentioned it EVERY year! And there sure was a lot of 500, which was eventually eclipsed by bingo mania. Bingo, the revival of the Turkey Bowl, and the arrival of the next generation all culminated in the whirlwind, less-than-24-hour hyper holiday that was the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving at 14 Fairhill Dr. It was a big deal!

1971

Day after  
Thanksgiving  
at D.J.'s



*Is that carpet green or what?!*

*Which model was newer, the Black Bomb or the Buggy?*



*Left—November 1970*

*Below—December 1970*



## 1970

*Big Don's diary entries are on the left and Grandma's are on the right*

### Friday, Nov. 27, 1970

All to Poland in evening.  
Brought Bobby, Rickey & Gary back & all of us "men" slept at the new house.

### Saturday, Nov. 28, 1970

Tom Robinson, Bob, Judy & Patty & I lost 7 touchdowns to 9 to Bruce, Dale, Bill, Rickey, Gary & Bobby. Watched Army-Navy fb game then Southern Cal 38-Notre Dame 28.

## 1971

### Friday, Nov. 26, 1971

Office till 3. Bob took boys to Football Hall of Fame in Canton. EJNs, Grovers, CRNs, Mom, Jan & Gary over for supper, ping pong, movies, cards, etc.

### Saturday, Nov. 27, 1971

Day of the Big Game. Over 40's 36-Young Bucks 32. Bob, Tom R., Gene, Gary (Jan's husband) & I. Bruce, Dale, Bobby, Bill, Rick & Gary. EJNs left 2 PM. Grovers 4 PM. CRNs & Mom stayed.

### Friday, Nov. 27, 1970

50°  
Mickey & Judy to Pittsburgh.  
Bill & Pat to Boardman.  
Gene & Bob put tar on porch roof & spotted it on garage roof.  
DJs & Grovers up eve.  
500 & Scrabble  
To bed at 12.  
All Boys but Bill went to DJs' new house to sleep.

### Saturday, Nov. 28, 1970

50°  
Bill & Pat & Bob & M. & Judy to N. C. for football game.  
EJs left at 3:30 P.  
CRs at DJs till 10:30.  
Dunk & Betty here for supper.  
(Boys at N. C., too)

### Friday, Nov. 26, 1971

Cloudy.  
Gene took my car to American for check-up. (\$36.87 - he paid.)  
Bob took boys to Canton to F. Ball Hall of Fame.  
Girls went shopping. Got yarn for scarves.  
To DJs at 5:30. 22 there. Ham buffet.  
500.  
Home at 12.

### Saturday, Nov 27, 1971

Rainy.  
To DJs at 9.  
Football game a.m. Over 40's beat Young Bucks.  
Sloppy Joes etc. 24 there. (Robinsons, too.)  
EJs left at 3.  
Grovers at 4.  
I stayed all night.  
Scrabble & 500.

## 1972

### Friday, Nov. 24, 1972

Office until 2 PM. Home & helped Beth & Martha decorate my office area as a ballroom. Dale had first JV bb game & lost. Gene & family, Bill, Grovers & Mom over for supper. Danced at "Valley Dale" that we had decorated. Played cards. Looked at pics. Bob & Mickey to Pittsburgh.

### Saturday, Nov. 25, 1972

Dale had bb practice. Did some shopping. Bob & I over to get Mom & Judy. Watched OSU 14-Michigan 11 fb game on TV. Wow!! Played cards in even.

## 1973

### Friday, Nov. 23, 1973

Back to Poland AM. Raked leaves & did sundry "chores." Played bb at our house in afternoon. Everyone over for supper. Grovers, CRNs, EJNs, Jan & Gary, Mom.

### Saturday, Nov. 24, 1973

Rains began. I ran errands AM. Watched OSU 10-Michigan 10 fb game on TV. Cards in evening. Ping Pong.

### Friday, Nov. 24, 1972

Nice day. Except cold wind.  
Bill left at 9. Had to work.  
Pat & Judy to mall.  
Ellen & I to new A & P.  
Got chrysanthemum & af. violet.  
All to DJs' at 5.  
Ham dinner.  
500.  
Home at 11:30.

### Saturday, Nov. 25, 1972

EJs left at 9.  
Don & Bob came at noon. Took Judy & I to N. C.  
All watched OS beat Mich. in a close game 14-11.  
All girls ex. Barby & I to dinner at church.  
I made hot beef sandwiches from leftover beef.  
TV & 500 eve.  
Stayed all night.

### Friday, Nov. 23, 1973

Nice day.  
Don & girls raked all of lawn. Gary & Betty, too.  
Mickey & Judy to Pitts.  
Gene & Bob put tar on porch roof, fixed porch steps. Cleaned gutters of leaves. Drilled holes in garage floor.  
Ellen to mall.  
Pat & girls & Gary to mall.  
Bill to mall.  
All to DJs' for ham dinner, etc.  
500 & games!

### Saturday, Nov. 24, 1973

Rain hard all day.  
EJs left at 8:45.  
Judy & I back to bed till 10:20.  
Ann called. Don called. Bruce came for us at 12.  
We watched OS & Mich. tie.  
I took a nap. 500.  
To bed at 1:30.

## 1974

### Friday, Nov. 29, 1974

Office AM. Gang was over for supper & evening. Cards.

### Saturday, Nov. 30, 1974

Bob & I to office AM. Bob, Norm & I stood Bruce, Dale & Bobbie in fb. We lost 52-26. Cards in evening.

### Friday, Nov. 29, 1974

Cloudy. Cold.

Judy & Pat to mall.

Bob & Gene trimmed willow tree. Cleaned garden. Put on snow tires. And changed toilet seat!

All to DJs' at 6.

Ham, etc. Good. 20 there.

500.

### Saturday, Nov. 30, 1974

Mickey to Pitts.

Bev, Beth & Martha to mall.

12:00 I went to N. C. with them.

Pat? came (Bruce's college friend).

Watched USC & N. Dame.

Men played Bball & Fball.

500 eve.

## 1975

### Friday, Nov. 28, 1975

Office until 2 PM. Home. Grovers, Mom & CRNs over for supper. Cards. Karen O. stopped in.

### Saturday, Nov. 29, 1975

Mowed lawn. Washed cars. Took Barbie to Dr.'s for sore throat. Jim & Virginia over in evening.

### Friday, Nov. 28, 1975

40°

Beth came over. M., Judy & Pat & B. to mall.

Bob, M. & I to Grovers'. Kevin there. Jan & G. moving house on Dogwood.

Talked to Gayle at Betty's. They are giving Jim blood.

All 16 of us at DJs' for ham dinner.

M. took tossed salad. I took p. clusters & cookies.

Betty took Bev's birthday cake.

Home at midnight.

### Saturday, Nov. 29, 1975

40° Windy early.

CRs left at 11. Raining.

I dusted, swept & straightened. Took a nap.

Dave & Mary came at 4. Had soup, beef & salad.

To Playhouse at 8. "The Sunshine Boys." Very good & funny.

Home at 11. Dunk & Betty came.

To bed at 1 a.m.

## 1976

### Friday, Nov. 26, 1976

Office until 3 PM. Outside for awhile. Gang over for supper. Watched Pitts 24-Penn State 7 fb game.

### Saturday, Nov. 27, 1976

Bob, Mickey & girls to Pittsburgh for day. Washed cars. Cleaned garage. Misc. Boys & Bobby & I played vb at Y in evening.

## 1977

### Friday, Nov. 25, 1977

Bob, Mickey, Janet Verone & I played tennis in afternoon at Bubble. Everyone over for supper & evening. About 29 in all.

### Saturday, Nov. 26, 1977

Snowed AM. Plowed drive out. Watched Pitt-Penn State fb game. Mom, Bill & Pattye over for supper & evening.

### Friday, Nov. 26, 1976

45°

Gene fixed railing on porch. Drained water heater, a couple buckets.

Changed tires on car, put snow tires on.

Pat & Mark to mall. Girls came from N. Cas., too.

Ellen to Yum Yum Tree. Bill & I Scrabble.

5:00 to DJs' for ham dinner.

5 of Grovers. Jan has cold, they didn't come. 22 there.

500. Home at 11:30. To bed at 2.

### Saturday, Nov. 27, 1976

52°

Pat, Mark & Bill left from DJs' last night.

9:30 Gene & Ellen left.

Talked to Peg. Talked to Ruth.

Talked to Pearl. Talked to Rachel. Talked to Ann.

Betty & I to laundromat. 7 sheets, etc.

Took a little ride. 8:00 Betty here.

Dave called.

### Friday, Nov. 25, 1977

20° Cloudy.

10:00 Ellen, Ruth & girls & Pat & Mark to mall.

10:00 Gene took Buick. Water hose broke! Thomas Sunoco.

Gene & John fixed stereo speakers. Fixed garage knob. Drained water tank.

5:30 all to DJs'. Ham dinner. Birthday cake for Ruth & Bev.

500. Bridge. Bingo. Games & games.

Pat & M. left for home. Bill & Pattye Lou ARRIVED.

Home at 12. To bed 2:30.

### Saturday, Nov. 26, 1977

18°

Ground white with snow. 2 in. Suzy shoveled the drive.

9:00 EJs left for home.

10:30 Lewises left for home. Called at 11 PM. Home O.K.

P.M. Bill & Pattye to mall. Snowing P.M.

6:00 to DJs' for beef stew. 500. Games & pictures.

Home at 11.

## 1978

### Friday, Nov. 24, 1978

Office AM. Bob, Mickey, Bev & I Ted & Karen, Mark, Jim Ridge & Kim Creasey played tennis in afternoon. Girls decorated basement. Mom, EJNs, Dunk, Gayle & Jim, Lewises, Mark & Pat, Bill & Pattye over for supper. Played bingo. Disco dancing.

### Saturday, Nov. 25, 1978

Cleaned up basement. Watched OSU 3-Michigan 14 fb game. Bob & I played Dale & Bobby fb. We lost. Mom, Bill & Pattye, Pattye & Mark over for supper. Ostrowskis & Wilsons over after. Looked at wedding pics. Played ping pong. Bill's movies.

### Friday, Nov. 24, 1978

Rain all day.  
Sold my car to (Gene) Pat & Mark. \$1300.  
10:00 girls from N.C. & Cheri & Suzy to mall.  
Ruth & J. came. Betty had soup with us.  
Then for a ride. Pat.  
5:30 all to DJs' for ham dinner & fun. Bingo & discotheque dance.  
Home at 12:30.

### Saturday, Nov. 25, 1978

Almost snowing.  
8:45 Gene & Ellen left.  
Lewises left.  
Girls to mall again.  
5:30 to DJs' again. Beef stew.  
Wilsons & Ostrowskis there later.  
Home at 1:30.

## 1979

### Friday, Nov. 23, 1979

Beautiful day. 70°. Office AM. Bob, Mark, Mickey, Betty, Jim, Bruce, Bob & Ted O. & J., Bobby N. & I played tennis. Everyone at our house except Ruth & John, John's father died, Hank, Rick, Carolyn & Gary.

### Saturday, Nov. 24, 1979

Brought Mom, Cheri & Suzy over. Looked at Bruce's pictures. Bob & I played Dale & Bob fb. No contest.

### Friday, Nov. 23, 1979

60° Rainy early. Nice rest of day.  
Gene cleaned rest of leaves. All down now.  
All girls except Barb went to K-Mart. Tennis in N. C.  
10 a.m. R. & J. left for Kansas. Funeral tomorrow at 11 a.m.  
11 a.m. Dave, Mary, Carol, Dean and Kyle came.  
Had lunch. 5:30 all to DJs' for ham dinner.  
Bingo & picture show. Betty presented a trophy for playing tennis.  
12 Home. Pat & M. went home tonight.

### Saturday, Nov. 24, 1979

Rain.  
9:30 Gene & Ellen left. Bill & Pattye left.  
12:00 Don & Bob came for girls and me.  
Lunch there. Boys played fball. Men got beat.  
I took a nap.  
Bruce showed pics. Lasagna supper.  
10:00 home & R. & J. came. They went to Holly Inn. Girls stayed here.