

By Barb Nicolls

Thanksgiving entries in Ethel McCoy's diaries

Nov. 29, 1917 - 11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day! And I guess I haven't a 'grump' on. I feel that I have a good many things to be thankful for. I'll give a list of a few of them. To begin with: I'm thankful that I'm here on earth. I'm thankful that I have a good home. I'm thankful that I have a good mother and father. I'm thankful that I have such a dear little brother [Carl] to scrap with. I'm thankful for my good health. I'm thankful that I'm not poor. I'm thankful that I live in Poland. I'm thankful for the good times I have. And, I'm thankful it wasn't Tues. night that mother 'put her foot down.' And as one of the primary kids said last Sunday, I'm thankful that I have buttons on my coat to keep me warm. O, I have billions of things to be thankful for when I come to think of it. The trouble we never stop to think of our blessings. I guess I'm pretty well supplied with them alright.

I found out that the soldier was Mr. Bowne.

[ends here - were there more pages??]

Nov. 27, 1919 - It's Thanksgiving Day. What have I to be thankful for? It's seems as tho' I haven't anything, with him [brother Carl] so sick. And he doesn't seem any better. But, I'm praying! We got another nurse this morn. Miss McBride, an old lady & a practical nurse. She's real nice & I believe competent. South beat Rayen in their annual game today. 7 to 0. I'm sorry. I made my first pie today. It was a raison pie & real good. The crust was as flaky as could be.

Thanksgiving entries on Ethel Nicolls's calendars

Nov. 26, 1931 - Down to Grandma's for turkey dinner. Home at 7:00. Cloudy. Chilly.

Nov. 24, 1932 - Down home. Ruth & Ivy[?] up. 500. Coon hunting.

Nov. 30, 1933 - Church. Took basket to Wells. Down Home all p.m. & eve.

Nov. 29, 1934 - To church at 10 a.m. Raining! Down home for dinner. Boys to R [Rayen] & S [South] game p.m. All went to see *Peck's Bad Boy* eve.

Nov. 28, 1935 - Thanksgiving Day. Church morn. Down home till 8 p.m.

Nov. 26, 1936 - Went to church. All went to Grandma's but Don [who had a cold]. Betty came back & staid with him. About the same. Meeds down eve for 500.

Nov. 25, 1937 - [no entry]

Nov. 24, 1938 - Snowed hard all day. Down home all p.m. Big Eats. Turkey. Meeds down eve. 500. 2 tables.

Nov. 23, 1939 - Dad & Mom were up today. Had turkey. Nice day. Dad to D. R. eve.

Thanksgiving entries in Ethel Nicolls's diaries

Nov. 21, 1940 - Lovely day. Sunshine & warm. Went to church. It was at Method. All went to Mother's for dinner. Home at 7 p.m. Dad went coon hunting. I sewed all evening.

Nov. 20, 1941 - Rained nearly all day. Got up at 7 a.m. Made 4 pies. Had dinner at 1:30. Dad & Mother came up & Rachel came over. Ralph had to work. Folks went home about 5:30. Don, Gene, Dad & I went to see Bob Hope in Noth but the Truth [*Nothing But the Truth*], & Henry Aldrich for Pres [*Henry Aldrich for President*]. Good. To bed at 12.

Nov. 26, 1942 - Cloudy, rained a little a.m. Cold wind. Dad put up a storm window & painted some. Betty & I went in to Palace to Thanksgiving service. Sen. Burton spoke & then they had a pageant which was beautiful. Very good. Had dinner about 1:30. Mother came up. About 6, girls, Don, Dad & I went in to see Jack Benny picture [*George Washington Slept Here*]. Good.

Nov. 25, 1943 - A lovely Day. Sunshine and not cold. Dad & I went to church. Grandma up for chicken dinner. Betty worked till 3:30. Don, Ruth, Dad & I went to see *The Iron Major* at 6. It was very good. Home & had apple pie ala mode.

Nov. 23, 1944 - Gene called at 8:30 a.m. He was in Chicago & will arrive at 5:30 p.m. We went to church but just had a lunch at noon. Met Gene & had our Thanks. dinner then. Brot Gwen[?] out along. They were here till 10 then went down to her house. Gene looks good. Makes a 'sharp' looking soldier. It snowed hard all p.m. & everything is covered. Strike called off.

Nov. 22, 1945 - [no diary]

Nov. 28, 1946 - Nice, sunny day. Rather cold. We all went to church. Mother up & all had dinner about 1 p.m. Dad & I went to show (Two of us. Before the Mast [*Two Years Before the Mast*]) about 4:30. Back at 7 p.m. We just missed Joe & Marian & girls who stopped a few minutes on way to Pitts. John & Bill S. up & boys were here till about 9 p.m.

Nov. 27, 1947 - Thanksgiving Day. First time in 5 years together. Nice day. To church. Dinner at one. Turkey & all the trimmings. Mother up so 11 at table counting Hank.

Nov. 25, 1948 - Nice sunny day. All went to church at 10:30 at Pres. church. Mother up & Grovers down for dinner at 1. (10 at table. Gayle went to bed early.) No word from Bob for 2 wks. 500 eve.

Nov. 24, 1949 - Thanksgiving. Boys & Dad & I to church at 10. 12 at table. Grandma didn't come down. Carolyn Tooill was here. Ruth came. Bob couldn't come.

Nov. 23, 1950 - Thanksgiving Day. Nice day, not very cold. All here for dinner. 14. Kathy made 15 but she was in bed when we ate. Canasta[?].

Nov. 22, 1951 - Thanksgiving Day. Up at 7. Dave came for Luc [lunch?] at 11. Tooills came to Dave's at noon. Grovers here for dinner 1:30. 9 of us. Betty, Gayle & I up to Dave's eve. Raining. Snow gone.

Nov. 27, 1952 - "Thanksgiving is Thanksgiving," Rev. Parr. Thanksgiving Day. Got up at 7:30. Stuffed turkey & put in oven. (Dunk's - from his boss[?]) Don & I to church at Pres. 11 here for dinner at 1:30. Dunk, H. & G. to Shrine Circus p.m.

Nov. 26, 1953 - Snow flurries all day. Up at 8. Fed Billy. Ham was cooked (had oven set for 4 to 8 a.m.) Turkey in. Made apple & mince pie. They began coming at noon. 20 of us. Mickey's sister Kathy, too. 2 tables. Nice day! Much to be thankful for!

Nov. 25, 1954 - Bill & I up at 8 a.m. I stuffed turkey & put it in at 8:30. Ham had been cooking since 5. Others all came by 1 p.m. Ate at 1:30. 17 at table. Ruth not here & Bill in bed. Gayle staid all nite.

Nov. 24, 1955 - Nice day. Cold. Me to church. 13 here for dinner. Grovers, D.S.'s, C. R.'s & us.

Nov. 22, 1956 - Thanksgiving Day. Up at 8. Had 29# turkey. 15 here. 12 at table. Ate at 2. Movies and 500 eve.

Nov. 28, 1957 - Ruth called. Also Bob's & Dave's (at Bob's). Gayle & I to church a.m. Up at 5:30. Turkey in at 6 a.m. Well done by 1. 15#. Dunk sick, couldn't come. So had 11 at table (2 [?] & Gary not).

Nov. 27, 1958 - Thanksgiving Day. Up at 8. Put turkey in. All of us to church. Good crowd. Dinner at 5 with Grovers & D.J.'s. Boys stayed (B. & D.) & Gayle.

Nov. 26, 1959 - Elsie M. called. Beulah's mother died. Thanksgiving Day. Up at 8. 10# turkey in at 10. Hank & Dunk stopped. Had pancakes. Dinner at 4:15. E.J.'s & D.J.'s. Grovers up at 6 for Rick's ice cream & cake. Birthday.

Nov. 24, 1960 - Thanksgiving Day. Up at 9. Turk in at 11. (Bathroom clogged up.) D.S.'s & D. J.'s came at 4. 15 at tables. Turk not done enough. Grovers up later. 500 eve.

Nov. 23, 1961 - Thanksgiving Day. Rain all day. Up at 8. Turk in at 9:30. 450[☞] wrapped in heavy Reynolds. Done at 1:30. Martha to bed so only 6 at table. Mary's folks up & Don's to Col. [Columbus]. Gene busy[?].

Nov. 22, 1962 - Thanksgiving. Cloudy. Snowed a little. To Grovers' for dinner at 5. Good turkey. D.J.'s to Col. [Columbus]. Tooills at D.S.'s. E.J.'s at C.R.'s home.

Nov. 28, 1963 - Up at 8. Turk 13# in at 8:30. Grovers came at 2. (Turk not done enough.) Covered top with Reynolds at 350[☞] for 4 1/2 hrs. Gayle went to Aliquippa. E. J.'s left at 6. Dad & I to D.S. Tooills there.

Nov. 26, 1964 - Thanksgiving. Nice sunny day. 22 here to eat at 5. E.J.'s, C.R.'s, D.J.'s, Grovers, us. Had 11 children at first table. 11 adults. Cafeteria style. Gayle in Columbus[?]. C.R.'s Wed. came to D.J.'s home.

Nov. 25, 1965 - Ruth called. Thanksgiving Day. E.J.'s came at 11. We ate at 1. 11 of us. 3 girls at card table. E.J.'s went back at 7. 500. Dad.

Nov. 24, 1966 - Up at 8. To Grovers' at 12:30 for good turkey dinner. Dad & I home at 2:30. Others staid till 8. 500 eve.

Nov. 23, 1967 - Thanksgiving. Up at 8:30. Filled 2 pump. pies. Made cole slaw. Made orange sweets. To Grovers' at 12:45. Boys took newspaper "rug runner." Plenty of food. To D.S.'s at 7. Gr. Tooill & Mac & Barton there. 500 eve. Betty came up. Don & children came over.

Nov. 28, 1968 - Thanksgiving. 24 here for dinner at 1:30. All of Grovers & Gayle's friend, Judy, C.R.'s, E.J.'s, D.J.'s. 500 eve. Dave & Tom over. Had birth. cake for Bev & Rick. Bruce, Dale & Bobby staid overnite at Grovers'.

Nov. 27, 1969 - Nice day. 22 sat down to eat at 1:45. 6 boys in back room. 9 adults in din. room. (Bev & Barby came at 4.) 500 eve. Birth cake & ice cream. Don showed pictures. Martha to Beth's overnite.

Nov. 26, 1970 - 50☞. Cloudy all day. E.J.'s came 11:30 a.m. Dinner at 2 p.m. 24 here. C.R.'s, E.J.'s, D.J.'s, Grovers. All and Gary B. 500 and Scrabble. Martha to Beth's. Bobby to Grovers'.

Nov. 25, 1971 - 32☞. Up at 8. Made b. corn. Girls set tables. Dave & Tom here. Everyone came at 1:45. (Forgot the potatoes 'till then.) Ate at 2:30. Plenty food. 500 & Scrabble. All had good time, I'm sure. Thankful.

Nov. 23, 1972 - Cloudy & cool. Bill came 10:30. Girls set tables. All came at 2. Ate about 2:15. TV, 500, Scrabble. Dave, Carol, Dean, Tommy & Abbey here. All went home by 11 p.m. Nice day. So much to be thankful for!

Nov. 22, 1973 - 60☞. Lovely day. Bill & Pat here 11. D.J.'s, Grovers, Bluckers & C.R.'s came by 2. Ate at 2:05. 22 of us. Plenty of food and fun. 500, Scrabble, Trouble & Aggravation. Gayle called from Death Valley. Camping. To bed at 1. A day to be so thankful for.

Nov. 28, 1974 - Cloudy. Up at 8. Judy & Pat set table, etc. All came at 2. 25 of us. Kathy came with Rick & Hank came! Lots to eat. 500, Scrabble. (Jan cut her hand doing dishes.) Dave called. Talked to him, Mary, Aunt Ruth, Karen Cody, Ruth, John, Cheri & Suzy.

Nov. 27, 1975 - 40☞. Up at 8. A call from Gayle. Jim in bike accident. Dinner at 2. 21 of us. 500 eve.

Nov. 25, 1976 - 40°. Snow gone by noon. Judy, Beth & Martha came at 11. Set table, etc. (Big help.) Pat & Bill & Mark came at 1. Rest came at 1:50 & 2:00. Grovers, Hank & Joyce & Kelly. 27 in all. Plenty to eat. 500, Scrabble, talk & TV. 3: Ruth A. called. Aunt Ruth there. To bed at 12:30.

Nov. 24, 1977 - Thanksgiving. Cloudy. R. & J. came at noon. Rest at 2. (24.) Too much food! 500, bridge, Scrabble, Trouble.

Nov. 23, 1978 - 40°. Thanksgiving. Ellen & Pat & Gene fixed food & tables, etc. 12: Ruth & J. & girls came. 2: rest came. 28. Grovers, all of them. E.J.'s, all of them. D.J.'s, all but Bruce & J. They are in Col. [Colorado]. Lewises. Good food. Good fun. Sink clogged. Dunk & Gene fixed it. Ruth, John, Cheri & I for a ride around Poland. Much to be thankful for!

Nov. 22, 1979 - Thanks. 60°. Rainy day but sunny indoors. Gene & Ellen set up tables, etc. 11: Pat & Mark came. 12: Bill & Pattye came. 2: Rest of 29 came. Grovers all but Hank. He went to Myrtle Beach. D.J.'s came. C.R.'s at Pitts except Bob Jr. Sumptuous meal. Everyone stuffed! 500, bridge, Scrabble, Boggle, Fball on TV & munching on leftovers. Everyone but E.J.'s and Cheri & Suzy left. Lovely fun day!

Nov. 27, 1980 - Snowing lightly about an inch. E.J.'s set tables up. Ellen did cooking. 12: Lewises came (4). Ruth cooked, too. 2: Grovers (except Hank) (12). D.J.'s & Bob (7). 27 in all. Gary brot friend Paul. Bob, M. & M. to Pitts. Sumptuous dinner. Gayle & girls did dishes. Just snacked rest of day. 5: Judy called from Miami. 500, Scrabble, bridge & assorted games. Good time had by all. Thanks!

Nov. 26, 1981 - Thanks Day. Cloudy & rainy but SUNNY inside! Pattye & Mark got here at 4:30 a.m. Up at 8. Ellen & Pat prepared beef, etc. Gene & M. set tables up. 30 places. All filled. Mary & Dave came at noon. R. [Ruth], J. [John] & girls at 1:00. Rest by 2. Ate at 2:15. 500, bridge, football, Scrabble, games. Good time was had by all! Bob Jr. came from Chi. [Chicago] 1 p.m. Judy called. Bob & M. & Martha called.

Nov. 25, 1982 - A day to be Thankful and it really was. Ground white. 28 of us! 2 20# turkeys. 9# beef roast. 2:30 a.m. Pat & Mark arrived. Ruth, Betty, & I for a tour of Pol. & cemetery.

Nov. 24, 1983 - Happy Thanksgiving. Nice day. All up by 8. All helped set up tables & get food ready. Beef roast, etc. I wore dress Ellen bro't me for Chr. 2: Rest came. 24 of us. Good eats. 500, bridge, & games.

Nov. 22, 1984 - [no entry]