



Please note that future in-person meetings are currently suspended in accordance with guidance from local and state officials as a result of the current pandemic. We hope to go virtual in 2021!

All members are asked to register their email address for virtual programming and PPHSM news communications. If you haven't already done so, visit the link below and register today!

http://bit.ly/pphs_emailreg

A Brief History of Veterans Day

"The Great War," also known as World War I, officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. However, an armistice which ceased fighting between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month: November 11, 1918. As that date is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars," President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first observation of Armistice Day in 1919. He said, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Congress approved an act on May 13, 1938 marking the 11th of November a legal holiday each year known as "Armistice Day." After the massive mobilization of American soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in World War II, Congress replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans" in 1954, and the day became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issues the first Veterans Day Proclamation on October 8, 1954.

The article to the right is from Page 8 of the Monday, December 13, 1954 issue of the Asbury Park Evening Press and documents Point Pleasant Beach High School's observance of the first Veterans Day after Eisenhower's Proclamation. Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week in which it falls. Veterans Day celebrates and honors America's veterans for their service to our country and sacrifice for the common good.

While local services this year will be very different due to COVID restrictions, the honor and sentiment of recognizing all Veterans remains the same. The Point Pleasant Historical Society extends its heartfelt gratitude and respect to all who have defended our freedoms by serving the United States of America.

Pointers Observe 1st Veterans' Day

By Jean A. Shrout '55
POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Veterans' Day was observed this year at Point Pleasant Beach High School for the first time. The assembly, given Nov. 11, consisted of the singing of "America," directed by music supervisor Robert C. Stetser, scripture reading and prayers read by Linda Coe, Student Council, president, and the flag salute led by Russell McTague, president of the senior class.

With the reverent nature of the program, the auditorium was darkened and only one spotlight was on the stage where a solitary gun and bayonet stood.

This furnished the background for the play, "I Got No Prayer," by Arch Obler, which was tape-recorded by faculty members who were veterans and presented over the loudspeaker system.

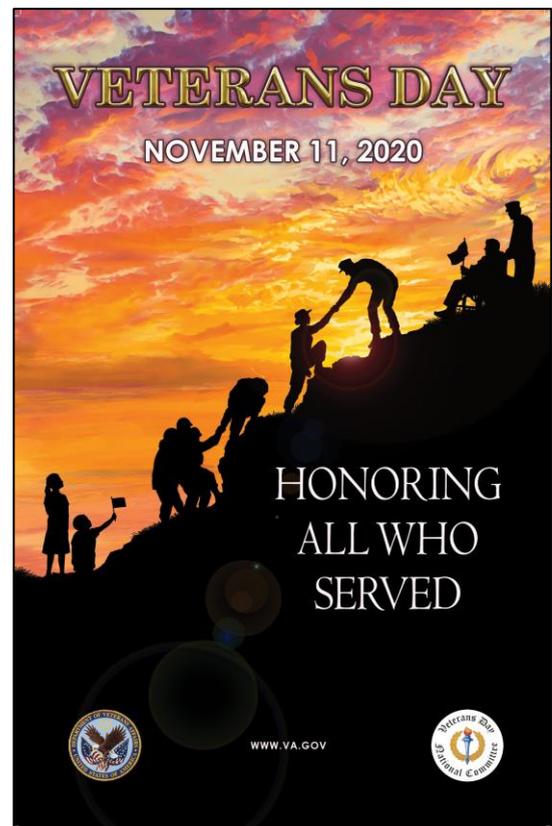
Source: December 13, 1954 (page 22 of 28). (1954, Dec 13). Asbury Park Evening Press (1905-1974). Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2007895812?accountid=345>



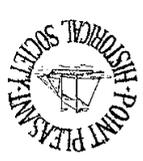
Special Message from The Big Man in Red...

Hi, everyone! The elves are working triple-time making presents for good little boys and girls all over the world. Because I have to stay healthy for the big Christmas delivery, Mrs. Claus and I cannot leave the North Pole for a visit to the Bennett Cabin this season.

But don't worry, we've received special travel clearance for Christmas Eve. Rudolph will lead the reindeer and my sleigh to the Jersey Shore as promised, so be sure to look under your tree and in your stockings on Christmas morning. Mrs. Claus and I cannot wait to see you at the Bennett Cabin once again in December 2021! Until then, be good for goodness sake! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The North Pole!



2020 Veterans Day Poster from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



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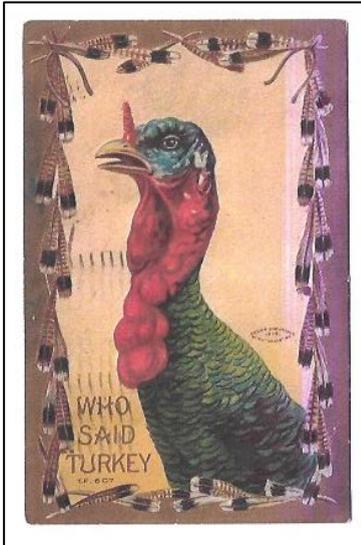
Point Pleasant Historical Society

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A Glimpse Into History

Vintage Thanksgiving Post Card (front and back) provided by Sal Marino.



Answers to Last Month's Halloween Riddles from Reader's Digest:

1. I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and every Halloween, I stand up inside Jack O'Lanterns. What am I? **Answer: A Candle**
2. How do you spell candy in 2 letters? **Answer: C and Y**
3. A zombie, a mummy, and a ghost bought a house. It has all of the usual rooms except for one. What room won't you find? **Answer: A Living Room.**

Nostalgic November

November is a month filled with traditions, especially for those of us with an affinity for small town nostalgia and local roots. Whether you wore red and white, black and gold, or blue and grey, you had a lot to look forward to as the sea of crunchy leaves on your lawn deepened with each passing day.

Who can forget the parades and bonfires before the big Thanksgiving day football games when the flames, at the height of their intensity, consumed the pile of pallets and brush while lighting up the night sky? The cold air stung our faces as the marching band played our school song and we stood united, not divided, teeming with hometown pride. Our colors and our mascot were tops, bar none, and regardless of our win-loss record, nobody could defeat us.

Beach versus Squan. Boro versus Squan. Beach versus Wall. Boro versus Beach.

Traditions and rivalries that spanned decades and ebbed and flowed with the area's changing demographics and the shifting of divisions and state championship regulations.

Traditions and rivalries that brought us all home.

We'd skip out on watching the Thanksgiving parade broadcast from the big city and, instead, cheer for our home team while praying for the opposing quarterback to throw an interception or the opposing kicker to miss the uprights entirely. Spiced apple cider, hot chocolate, or a secret, smuggled-in flask of brandy kept

us warm until the final score lit up the scoreboard.

Even if we lost, we felt on top of the world. We'd return home and, upon opening the front door, the smell of the roasting turkey and the baking pies walloped us straight in the face. We'd switch from our hometown cheers to those for our favorite professional teams as the sounds from the battle of the pigskin drowned out the children's laughter emanating from the playroom.

Then, it was time. Time for the feast of Thanksgiving.

Turkey and gravy, stuffing and figs, olive trays and yams, cranberry sauce and turnips, potatoes and corn, and pies of all kinds stood waiting on the table as we said grace and gave thanks for all that we have and for each other.

There's no doubt that, this year, the Thanksgiving and holiday traditions we experience might not look or feel normal, but what remains the same is the heart of family and the thread that connects us to our loved ones.

We can be grateful for all we have to look forward to when this pandemic eventually ends, including reveling together once again while celebrating both holidays and ordinary days in all of their glory.

Happy Thanksgiving!

- Jill Ocone

In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and our concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum remains closed to visitors until further notice.

Don't Forget... We need your email address as we hope to go virtual in 2021! Register your email address to stay in touch about virtual programming and PPHSM news. Visit the link to register today! http://bit.ly/pphs_emailreg