

# Traditional Thanksgiving far Cry from Modern Celebration

**KELLY POTTER**  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is a time when families join together to share in a holiday meal and show their love and respect for each other. Family and tradition, isn't that what the holiday's are really about? The holidays are the one time of the year that families come together and create memories that will stay with them throughout a lifetime.

The tradition of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend. We all have learned about the Pilgrims search for the New World on the Mayflower, and the coming together of the Pilgrims and Native Americans back in Elementary school. Only few

people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving the next year, or any other year after.

In 1827, Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying several Presidents for the instatement of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with his Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Our modern Thanksgiving feast is centered on the turkey, but that defiantly was not the case at the 1621 harvest feast. (As the colonists called it) The only two items that historians know for sure that were on the menu are venison and wild fowl. Many varieties of food were available, such as: seafood, bird, venison,



This Turkey is a Sitting Duck

grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

The colonists believed that the harvest was certainly not a "day of Thanksgiving." To them, a Thanksgiving was a religious holiday in which they would

go to church and thank God for a specific event.

On such a religious day, the types of recreational activities that the Pilgrims and Native Americans participated in during the 1621 harvest feast, dancing,

singing, playing games would not have been allowed. The feast was a secular celebration, so it never would have been considered a Thanksgiving in the Pilgrims minds.

The original, feast in 1621, occurred sometime between September 21 and November 11. Unlike our modern holiday, it was three days long. President Roosevelt set that date for Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday of November in 1939. Abraham Lincoln had previously designated it as the last Thursday in November, which may have been correlated with the November 21, 1621, anchoring of the "Mayflower," at Cape Cod.

Thanksgiving, as we know it today, has come a

long way from the Pilgrims harvest festival in 1621. It is an event that seems, as each year goes by, to reinvent itself and to expand it's meaning to larger vistas. Maybe this is the real significance of the occasion; for as we continue to change and grow as a person, there are an increasing number of things for which we can be thankful. Just about everyone has some sort of special tradition surrounding his or her celebration of Thanksgiving Day.

Traditions are a big part of the upcoming holidays, and every family has their own way of celebrating. What special tradition does your family share at Thanksgiving?

## Alpena Homeless Now Have Place to Stay

**PAULINE FIALKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

The homeless shelter, at 622 W. Chisholm lacks suitable space for the community of single adults and families in crises. John Ritter, director of the Sunrise Mission, admitted that he had to turn away six families since May of 2001.

The famous five words "I hope it will go away" is a far cry for a town that at one point in time did not have a place for homeless to go to when in need of housing. Before 1989, a shelter didn't exist for the people of Alpena, Michigan.

Action has been taken to remodel and add onto the shelter. Ritter and the board of directors have put two years of planning into the upcoming renovation. Mr. Ritter and the board of directors said they put two

years of planning into the expansion, adding 12 to 25 beds, and two rooms for the families. Currently there is one shower downstairs. More beds are being available upon completion along with the office space, living room, showers, and reception area.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority {MHSDA} awarded a matching grant for remodeling and adding onto the Shelter. Other organizations are contributing to the expansion, to raise money for the mission and the coming events for the 2002 renovation.

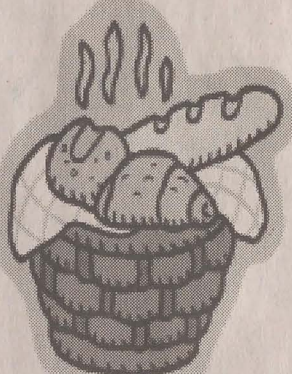
November 11-17 2001 is Homeless Awareness Week. Call 354-1277 to donate. All donations will be accepted. We need the community to get involved, to see what is going on. Being on the outside is nothing compared to looking in.

The money will be used for the mission. It will take thousands of dollars to finish the project so all donations are appreciated. Ritter said it would be 2002 before things will fall in place. Needless to say, the renovation will be for the needs of the homeless, to better serve the needs of the public.

Some of the residents of the mission helped tearing down the siding in 90-degree weather. When they look at the weather in December they would wish for the warmth of August, but looking forward to the new shelter.

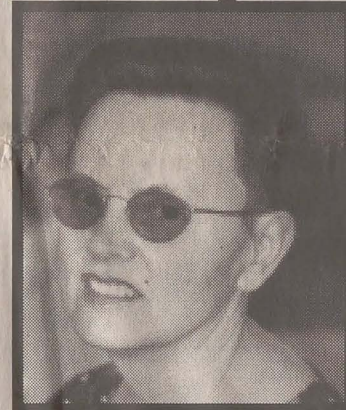
To meet the demands of the homeless, a fundraiser was held in August. There were races with bikers from different counties. One was held in August of 2001 with every rider raising money for the remodeling of the mission. Planning for

another cycling fundraiser is in the works. When you see the cycles going your direction, stop and think of all the warmth you will bring to the Center by donating money for a good charity.



**Gen-Ar's Restaurant**  
585 S. Ripley Blvd.  
989-354-8875  
Hours: 6:00 am- 9:00pm  
Take Out available  
Sunday Breakfast Buffet

## Betty Leavitt Here to Help



Betty Leavitt Photo By Joshua M. Bregg

**JENI MANNING**  
Staff Writer

If you have been to the Van Lare Campus Services office this year, odds are you've seen Betty Leavitt, a new face to ACC's personnel. Leavitt has been employed with ACC since February 2001, but to great disappointment, many students still do not know her.

Leavitt and her husband moved to Alpena from Clarkston fifteen months ago. They wanted to be out of the fast paced life and they had been boaters of Lake Huron for many years. They both loved being on the water. After her husband's retirement from General Motors, they choose to move to Alpena, even though they had no ties to the area. Leavitt and husband bought a home on State Street, which they are extensively remodeling.

Leavitt currently holds the title, Coordinator of Campus Services office in Student Affairs. Leavitt's responsibilities include admissions, financial aid, and

helping the students. It is very possible that Leavitt registered you for your classes this semester. She enters the admission applications onto the computer and updates them as required. Leavitt also coordinates the admission applications with the financial aid applications. Leavitt has never worked with financial aid before and she admits that she has a lot to learn but she is eager to learn it.

Leavitt has worked in other college settings as well as ACC. She was the Senior Executive Secretary of the General Council and Board of Trustees at Oakland University in Rochester. Leavitt's experience doesn't end there she was also Office Supervisor/ Executive Secretary at Lansing Community College.

According to Leavitt the community college setting, "is more student friendly and more student accessible." She enjoys working with the students and the student interaction. She is eager to help the students any way she can. If she doesn't know the answer to a question you ask, she will gladly research to find it. Leavitt accepted the job at ACC because she wanted to be in the community college setting once again. Her most enjoyable work had been while working in the community college setting and she wanted to once again work closer with the students. Leavitt wants the students to

feel comfortable when they walk into the Services office. "They need to feel like they can ask any question and get the help they need", says Leavitt.

Every time I have entered the office, Leavitt is smiling and eager to help. She has helped me with a variety of issues concerning college. I know that she is here to help and she is eager to do so. So, if you have questions about registering, financial aid, or just need help, go see Betty Leavitt at Campus Services office in Van Lare.

## Upward Bound=Cash for Good Grades

**TRACI SOBEK**  
Staff Writer

Here's a thought: getting paid to go to school and get good grades. There is a program that makes this possible. It is called Upward Bound. Upward Bound pays its members \$40 a month. The catch? Get good grades.

While for some people getting the extra spending money might be the main purpose of joining; that is not what Upward Bound is all about. Director Joe Klemens said, "The purpose is to generate the skills and motivation necessary for the successful completion of post-secondary education."

Upward Bound arranges field trips to different college campuses, where students can meet with a counselor in their field of interest. It also offers free tutoring and workshops that help prepare students for

education after high school. With the director Joe Klemens, secretary Deb Klemens, student advocate Ed Retherford and counselor Julie Robarge, there is always help available.

For over 20 years, Upward Bound has helped hundreds of students from Alpena, Alcona, and Posen High Schools (currently there are 65 members). This has been possible because the program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Upward Bound is sponsored, by ACC.

Not just anyone can join Upward Bound. According to secretary Deb Klemens, being a member is based on the "parents' educational attainment and income." This means that neither parent has graduated from a 4-year college, nor family income meets the federal income criteria. Director Klemens added that two-thirds of the

members meet both of the criteria and one-third meets one of the criteria.

In the summer, Upward Bound members participate in a program on the college campus. The program includes math, science, foreign language and English.

While education is the main purpose of Upward Bound, it focuses on fun as well. Included in the summer program is a trip. Past trips have been to Cleveland, Cedar Point, and Chicago. Upward Bound's next trip is still being planned. They also do different things throughout the year. For example, AHS senior, Stephanie Skaluba's most memorable experience is when the members "all dressed like cowboys and Indians and presented Mackinac fudge to Dr. Newport."

Applications can be picked up in the Upward Bound office at Alpena High School in the D-house teachers' lounge.

**Benefit Dinner & Concert**

For  
**Jessica Ruell-Coffin**

Friday, November 9th  
at the Maple Ridge Township Hall  
All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner  
**\* 5-7:00 pm Entertainment \* 7:00 pm-?**  
Featuring:  
**The Kirchoff Brothers & Other Local Artists**  
**\$5.00 adults, \$3.00 children, \$18.00 for family**