

## Pilgrim Trivia

1. Were all the passengers on the Mayflower from England?
2. Several of the passengers were known as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. How many passengers were on the Mayflower?
4. When was the term Pilgrim more commonly used?
5. What town did the Mayflower finally set sail from?
6. How many days did it take for the Mayflower to cross the Atlantic?
7. When did the Pilgrims set foot on American soil?
8. Where did the Pilgrims originally land?
9. How many Pilgrims survived the first winter?
10. What American Tribe helped the Pilgrims survive?
11. How many native Americans were at the first harvest feast?
12. How long did the first harvest feast last?
13. What utensil was not at the feast?

## Holiday Open House Update

The holiday season will look a little bit different this year. As large gatherings are still not encouraged at this time, we will not be holding our annual Holiday Open House. Our hope is to return to this tradition next year. We are going to miss spending time with you and enjoying a few laughs.

As a holiday surprise, we are offering, to our Friends Plus members only, a bamboo cutting board and spoon set. These can be picked up at the bank starting **Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** (one per family, while supplies last). Visit any of our tellers and they will be glad to give you one. We are unable to mail the gift set out.



## Mount Vernon's Magical Night

Another change for this holiday season will be CDG's Magical Night festivities. The event has been moved to Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and will be a drive through festival. You will be able to drive through uptown Mount Vernon and enjoy the sights and sounds of the holiday. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be outside the bank waving to the cars. There will not be a basket auction or pictures with Santa this year.

## Palisades-Kepler State Park: Part 2

*This is the second instalment of a 2-part series written by Jerry Reisinger, former Park Ranger, 1992 thru 1998, for Palisades-Kepler State Park. He spent 38 years managing state parks for the Iowa DNR. After retiring from the DNR, Jerry was a professor of Parks and Natural Resources for Kirkwood Community College until 2020. He is now retired.*

The Great Depression took such a huge economic toll on the United States that Franklin Delano Roosevelt ran for president on the promise to turn the disastrous economy around and get the country's workforce back to work again. Then, after winning the first of four presidential elections and within days of taking office in 1932 he implemented his New Deal programs to jumpstart the economy. One of them was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC's focus was to put hundreds of thousands of young men to work but at the same time build and improve infrastructure to boost



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1. No, some were from the Netherlands.
2. Separatists, they wanted to live life free from the Church of England and separate themselves from the Catholic Church.
3. 102 passengers and 20 to 30 crew members. 34 of the passengers were children.
4. In 1820 during the 200th commemoration of the landing.
5. Plymouth, England, on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1620.
6. 66 days.
7. November 11, 1620.
8. The tip of Cape Cod, they sailed later to Plymouth.
9. 51
10. Wampanoag
11. 91, Massasoit, the Sachem of the Wampanoag and 90 of his men.
12. 3 days.
13. The fork, Pilgrims used a spoon, a knife, a large napkin, and fingers. Plates and drinking vessels were shared.

conservation in all states. What turned out to be one of the most popular of these efforts was the building of state parks. Palisades – Kepler State Park was prime for this program. The land had recently been acquired, in-part by a sizable donation by attorney Louis Kepler of Mt. Vernon.

Originally, park development was planned for state land on the SW bank of the river. Cedar Rapidians complained about the long drive required to access the planned site and were successful with their proposal of developing the nearer NE bank, where land and cottages were owned by Kepler and others.

In 1933, Camp 781 was staked out for large army tents and a tentative organization of camp life was established at the site of today's lodge. After several months of living in tents, wooden buildings of modern construction with all other modern living amenities were introduced for barracks and mess hall. Between sixty and sixty-six men were housed in each of the three barracks at the park.



The 18 to 25-year-olds were provided all the food they wanted to eat as well as clothes and all necessities of life. They had been on welfare and were accustomed to a make-do lifestyle. They enjoyed each other's company and found that they had a lot in common. Over the next six years the young men, always referred to as boys, worked year-round to build park roads, trails, restrooms, campgrounds, cabins, lodge, and dam. The buildings were constructed of limestone and timber harvested from land within and near the park. Waterlines were dug by hand. The work was laborious, but the boys enjoyed their days and evenings working and living in the park. Some evenings were spent taking classes like typing, writing, and leather working at the camp. Other evenings and weekends were dedicated to playing cards and yard games. On special occasions the boys were taken by truck to town for a movie or roller skating.



The CCC was extremely popular with locals. All food and supplies were purchased locally, and nearby communities would end up with a beautiful public park they could call their own but that the federal government paid to develop. But the CCC program met its demise in 1942 when World War II took priority and reassigned all the young men and dollars to the war effort. Palisades – Kepler would not be what it is today without the CCC.

## Customer Appreciation

We are excited to report that we gave away 145 Community Cash certificates, a total of \$1,000.00, on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope you enjoyed shopping locally! We know the businesses appreciate your patronage.

Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company, 206 First St SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

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