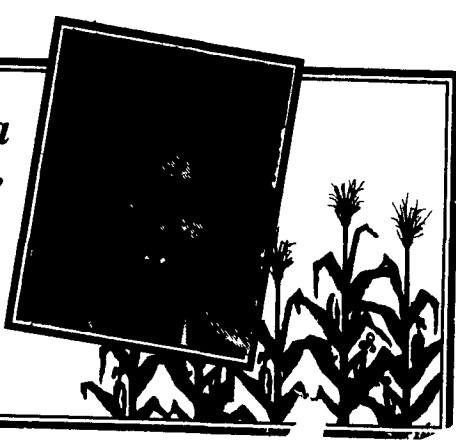


On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



Turkey? Why turkey for Thanksgiving.

Why not beef? Why not chicken? Why not ham? Why not hot dogs, for goodness sake?

Because the turkey people are better politically connected? Because the turkey people have better public relations advisors? Because the turkey people are better marketers?

Maybe. But more likely it's because of the same reason people shoot off guns and make a racket at midnight on New Year's Eve. because of the same reason we dye eggs in bright colors at Eastertime. Because of the same reason we display more flags than usual on patriotic days like memorial Day, July Fourth, and the recent Veteran's Day.

It's because of (to borrow a phrase from that famous stage and theatre production, "Fiddler On The Roof") "Tradition!"

And, when it comes to holidays, most of us thrive on tradition. In an everyday-changing world, traditions are a comforting strand of continuity, a link stretching from times past, tying together generations.

How do we really know the Pilgrims had turkey for what we traditionally refer to as the First Thanksgiving meal? Logic, for one thing, perhaps.

After a brief visit a year ago to beautiful Cap Cod and it's striking setting, jutting out into the ocean, that First Thanksgiving has become even more meaningful to me. The rolling dunes of sand, covered

with bushy growth near the peninsula's tip and forested areas in abundance, must surely have been abundant with wildlife. Like wild turkeys and deer, two entrees history has generally associated with that first celebration.

In fact, the ruggedness of the area particularly struck me as having been a most inhospitable-looking landing after a difficult crossing for those hardy souls who braved the adventure to the new World. No wonder they celebrated survival.

Those of us who remember when turkey was a special treat advertise our aging. Because the big bird was truly a holiday tradition. Turkeys were generally purchased fresh, just a day or two before the holiday no open-freezer-bins in a giant supermarket overflowing with heavy-breasted birds sporting their own thermostats. no separately packaged turkey breasts, or turkey parts or ready-to-serve, pre-prepared turkey entrees.

Suppose, though, the Pilgrims had landed on the Delmarva Peninsula instead of Cape Cod area. Would we celebrate Thanksgiving with steamed crabs. If they set foot first on the Florida beaches, would we roast up an alligator

or "crawdads" if those Pilgrims had blown off course and eventually disembarked their boats on the Mississippi River Delta?

And, if you like to argue with history and tradition, why not pay tribute to those early settlers who survived the trials and tribulations of like at Jamestown with a tasty Virginia ham? Surely those settlers were just as thankful for life and a square meal.

throw all traditions to the winds, maybe a turkey ham?

The reality is that we celebrate this wonderful holiday as a harvest tribute, a recognition of the bounty of food which we enjoy. So enjoy the blessings of Thanksgiving, whether it be a juicy turkey with traditional fix-ins' or a plain ole' grilled cheese sandwich.

And remember those less fortunate around the world who would be grateful for just a simple sandwich.

For those who really want to



Cedar Crest Attends Area Leadership Conference

Cedar Crest recently attended the annual Lebanon and Schuylkill area leadership conference and Greenhand quiz contest at ELCO high school. The purpose of this event was to familiarize FFA participants with their duties and responsibilities as chapter members.

The group was greeted by Jason Balsbaugh, county president. As part of the program, Dan Kreider, a Cedar Crest graduate and the state chaplain, spoke to the group.

First year members competed in a quiz contest. Participating members had to answer ques-

tions about the FFA. Jared Zimmerman, Hannah Bomgardner, Jeremy Balsbaugh, and Sarah Krall competed for Cedar Crest. Sarah Krall placed first Hannah Bomgardner tied for second, Jeremy Balsbaugh was fourth, and Jared Zimmerman was 10th

The FFA members were then divided up into groups. The groups were as follows; official dress, SAE, what are FFA membership advantages, and Dan Kreider and Erin Reed, western region vice president, led a session on leaders and qualities of leaders. While in the groups, FFA members learned how they could improve themselves and the FFA.

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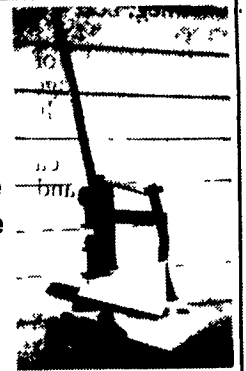
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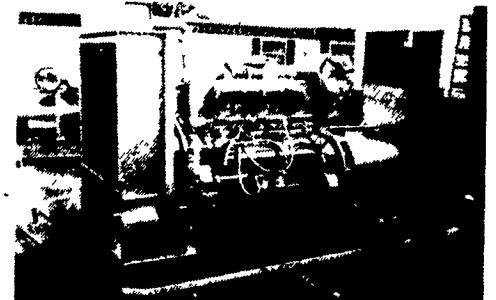


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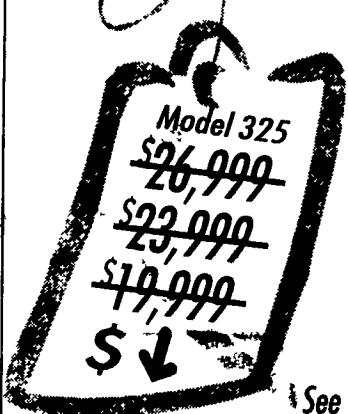
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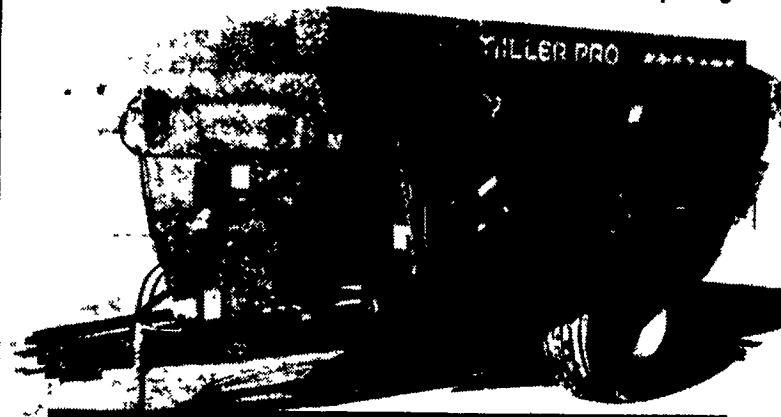
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