

Research Review

Turkey Boasts Mexican Ancestry

By ELLEN BRADLEY

The turkeys which will grace the tables of many homes throughout the United States today are believed to be ancestors of the wild turkeys of Mexico.

Carl O. Dossin, professor of poultry husbandry, said that the turkeys were probably first domesticated by the Aztec Indians in Mexico.

He said that Hernando Cortez, an early Spanish adventurer, is believed to have taken some of these domesticated birds back to Spain.

THESE TURKEYS, he said, were introduced into the rest of Europe from Spain and the early colonists brought some of them back to America.

Today's turkey is much larger and better fleshed than the birds that were in America when the Pilgrims observed the first Thanksgiving, he said.

"This increase is the result of improvement in breeding, feeding and management," Dossin said.

Major research concerning the turkey is currently being conducted at the University, under the direction of Edward G. Buss, associate professor of poultry husbandry.

THE WORK we are doing with turkeys is directed toward genetics and the physiology of re-

production," Buss said. "The big problem we have today with them is the inefficiency of reproduction."

Two eggs are usually required to produce one turkey, and three of four eggs are needed to produce the birds which people buy the most, he continued.

The reason for this inefficiency is that many of the eggs are infertile and there is a high rate of embryonic mortality, he said.

"WE ARE trying to improve the efficiency of reproduction by the use of artificial insemination."

Another situation that has been encountered is embryonic development in eggs from female turkeys which have not been fertilized or inseminated.

A vaccine called fowlpox is being injected into the turkeys. Several hundred embryos have developed and hatched because of this vaccine, he said.

"These turkeys we have called 'fatherless embryos,'" he said.

"This abnormal condition, which brings about an increase in cell division, may be related to cancer," Buss said.

6,000 Pounds of Turkey Prepared For Thanksgiving in Dining Halls

Three tons or 6,000 pounds of turkey will top the menu for the Thanksgiving Day dinner to be served in the dining halls today, Robert C. Proffitt, associate director of the housing and food services, said yesterday.

The menu for the evening candlelight dinner includes roast turkey with giblet gravy and corn bread dressing, whipped potatoes, frosted fruit shrub (punch with sherbet), creamed onions, French cut green beans with toasted almonds, and hot sticky buns with butter.

For desert, there will be about

1,400 pies with a choice between pumpkin pie with whipped cream or mince pie, Proffitt said.

A special buffet table with celery, carrot sticks, two kinds of olives, apple butter, cottage cheese and cranberry sauce will be set up in each of the dining halls.

Also on the buffet tables will be fruit bowls with apples, oranges, grapes, bananas and pears.

Guest meal tickets will be available for the meal for \$1.50. Students should go to the dining hall supervisors to purchase them, Proffitt said.

Pollock Students Eat Near 'Hot' Material

By DOROTHY DRASHER

A lump of radioactive material is situated approximately 500 yards away from the tables at which students eat in the Pollock dining hall.

The material lies 18 feet under water in a swimming pool, but the pool is not an ordinary one. It is an integral part of the University's nuclear reactor. The 71,000 gallons of water which flow through the pool are used to control the temperature of the radioactive material.

The experimenters using the radioactive material and the swimming pool include graduate students, faculty and outside researchers.

MOST OF the experiments are original and organized to prove or disprove various theses. In some cases, information is sought on how a certain material will react when subjected to various degrees of radioactivity.

If the temperature of the material reaches a danger point, a loud horn blasts to warn occupants to evacuate the building immediately. This warning mechanism can be activated if any of a dozen other mechanical failures occur in the reactor.

THE NUCLEAR reactor is strictly a research tool, Ira Mc-

Master, reactor supervisor, said. The facility itself is considered very safe and the fission reactions carried on in experiments are usually at low energy levels, he said.

At these low energy levels, radioisotopes of any element can be made. To do this, the element is placed at the core of the reactor, under the water in the pool, and bombarded with carefully controlled radiation.

THE BENEFITS to the average student on the campus as a result of this research are negligible,

Carl Farley (graduate chemical engineering - Montgomery) said. Farley, who works at the reactor, said that the field of nuclear physics research is very new in relation to the other sciences and much basic knowledge must be obtained before practical applications of nuclear science can result.


Jester Article Published

William A. Jester, graduate assistant in chemical engineering, is the author of an article entitled "Neutron-Activation Flowmeter" published in the November issue of "Nucleonics Magazine."

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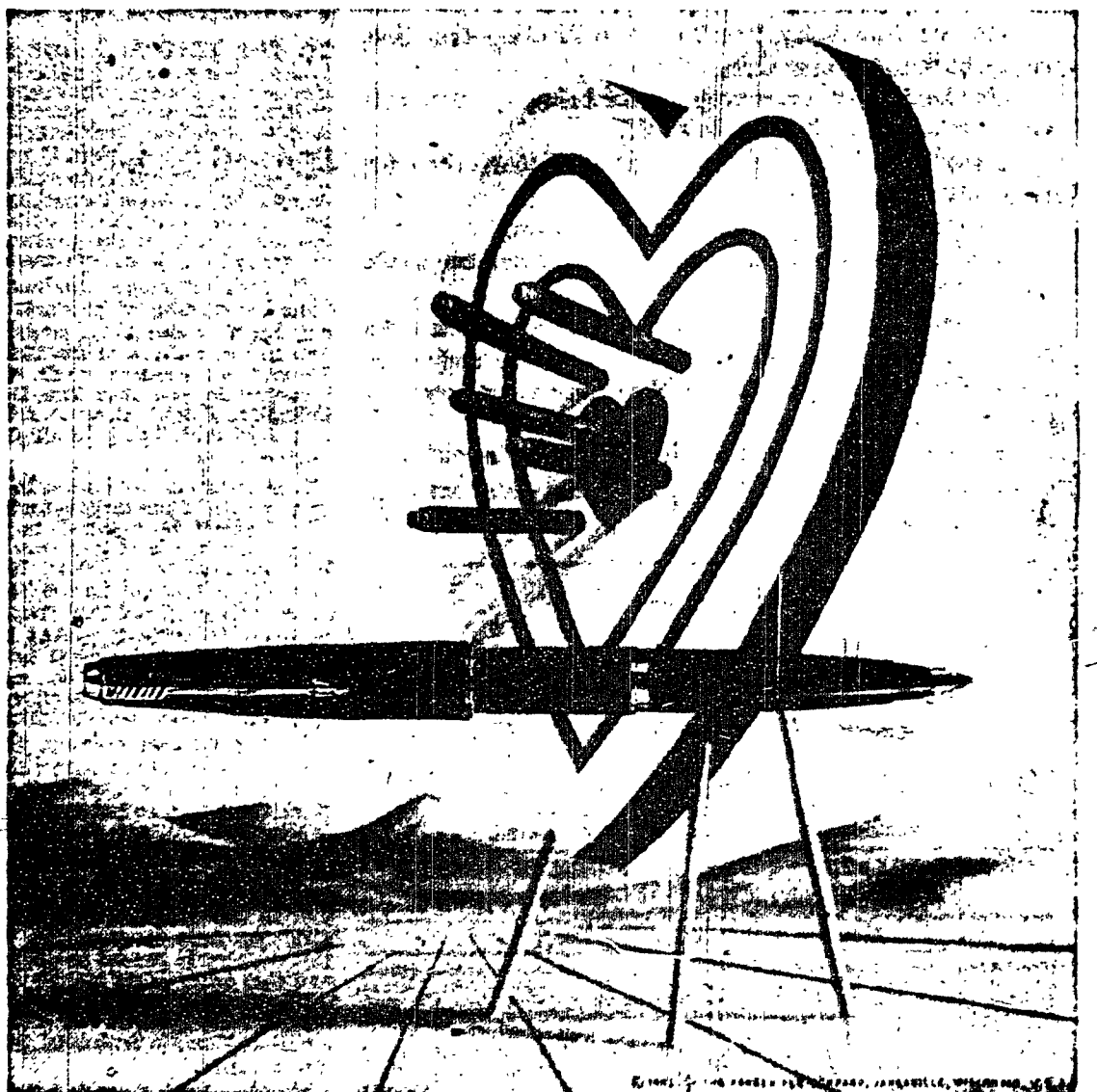
TODAY 5 - 6:45

Lion's Den Grill
Open 8 A.M. to 9 P.M.

THANKSGIVING DAY
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
including a choral reading

"The Circle Beyond Fear"

11:00 a.m. Eisenhower Chapel
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P. S. To girls: a Parker Arrow—besides being a very romantic gift—comes in one size (the right one), should last at least ten times longer than a scarf or a tie, and should bring in a harvest of correspondence you'll cherish the rest of your life.

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