

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Story of the Turkey



On His Way to the Dining Table.

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ONE of the largest of wild game birds which has been domesticated, the turkey has become "the national festival bird" of various countries. As a wild bird in North America, the turkey supplied the numerous tribes of Indians and the early white settlers with "game" fowl in great abundance, whereas in later times the domesticated turkey has provided kings and presidents, as well as the more lowly in rank, in various nations with a class of meat that has come to be regarded as essential in the proper celebration of certain holidays.

The turkey is the only race of poultry that originated in the United States. When Francisco Fernandez, under the patronage of Philip II of Spain, arrived at the northern coast of Yucatan in 1517, turkeys were observed to be domesticated by the natives. In 1518 Grijalva discovered Mexico and found domesticated turkeys in great numbers. Gomara and Hernandez refer to wild as well as domesticated forms.

Various Indian tribes fed freely upon turkey meat, obtained from both wild and domesticated flocks. The Aztecs were more inclined to domesticate the turkey than the northern Indians, but all tribes hunted the wild birds.

The flesh was not the only part of the turkey used by the Indians. Feathers served to adorn the wearing apparel, and they were also made into robes and blankets, being twisted separately into strands of wild hemp and then woven together.

In its original habitat the wild turkey ranged from the Atlantic coast to as far north as the Dakotas, and from southern Ontario to southern Mexico. It was not a native of the three Pacific coast states, nor of Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming.

With practically a whole continent for his home, the more favored haunts of the wild turkey were the forests and brush lands, where food was abundant and there was some protection from natural enemies. He fed on acorns, seeds, berries, grass and insects, especially grasshoppers.

Found Wild in Southern States. The clearing of the forests and brush lands for agricultural purposes and the shooting of thousands of birds by hunters were two of the most important factors contributing to the gradual retreat of the wild turkey from northern and eastern states.

It is still to be found in Arizona, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Mexico. Various state game departments are reintroducing the bird, and restocking depleted areas.

Although there is no doubt that the wild turkey originated in America, there is much doubt as to how it got its name. Some early writers have suggested that the name "turkey" was adopted because of the supposed resemblance between the adornments of the fowl's head and the fez worn by Turkish citizens. But the most widely accepted explanation is that the name bears some resemblance to the bird's repeated call-notes—"turk, turk, turk."

The turkey is not a migratory bird in the sense that ducks and geese migrate hundreds of miles from the south to the north in the spring and return in the fall, much to the delight of thousands of hunters.

The wild turkey is a handsome bird of stately carriage. His glossy plumage is mostly greenish bronze, with gold and copper reflections. In the sunlight the effect is a delight to the eye. The feathers of the neck, breast, body, and back are tipped with a band of velvety black, thus accentuating the glowing sheen of the remainder of the plumage.

fat and serves to sustain the bird; he usually eats little while strutting, gobbling, and otherwise making love to the females.

As the mating season advances the gobbler usually becomes quite thin, as the reservoir of fat is used up. There is no pairing off in couples, as in the case of many other wild birds, for the wild turkey male is polygamous in the extreme and loves a large harem. Bitter fights among the old males are common, the victor claiming the harem of the vanquished. The defeated male must perforce seek battle with another flock of females, or he is obliged to join a group of disconsolate "bachelors."

The females select secluded spots for their nests and make a slight depression in the ground, into which a few dry leaves are scratched. From eight to fifteen eggs, somewhat smaller and more pointed than those of the domestic varieties, are laid.

After four weeks of incubating, the baby turks, or poults, appear, covered with gray down, dotted with dusky spots, and with two dusky stripes running from the top of the head down the sides of the back. The down is soon replaced by feathers, which are replaced by another coat of feathers when the birds molt. The molting season begins in August, and by the latter part of December all of the old feathers have been replaced by new ones.

The young gobbler acquires his "beard" in the center of the breast by November and it continues to grow rapidly until the third year, and thereafter more slowly.

Plenty of Epidemics. This large and magnificent wild bird has always had numerous enemies, such as the fox, coon, mink, skunk, wolf, lynx, and coyote. Its bird enemies include owls, eagles, and hawks. One writer says:

"There is never a moment in the poor turkey's life that eternal vigilance is not the price of its existence." Not only must the turkey be on guard every hour of the day, but it must also seek roosting places that are more or less inaccessible to its natural enemies.

For this reason turkeys favor trees growing in shallow water, which seems to provide some protection from night prowlers.

In early colonial days wild turkeys were very numerous in Massachusetts, and at the beginning of the Nineteenth century they could be purchased for six cents each, while large birds, ranging from 25 to 30 pounds, sold for 25 cents each. When Cortez first visited the capital of Mexico, "no less than 500 turkeys, the cheapest meat in Mexico, were allowed for the feeding of the vultures and eagles kept in the royal stables."

The turkey was first introduced into Spain in 1519 by Francisco Fernandez. From that country it spread throughout Europe and England, being introduced into the latter country in 1524. There is a verse to the effect that:

"Turkeys, carps, hoppers, picarel and beer,
Came into England all in one year."

That the domestic turkey was still relatively rare in 1541 is emphasized by the fact that in that year "Archbishop Cranmer prohibited the appearance at state festivals of more than one dish of turkey cocks; the female was too precious to be cooked at that period. Fourteen years later two turkeys and two turkey poults were served at a grand lawn dinner. Twenty years afterwards the turkey became a Christmas dish with the farmer."

In recent years dressed turkeys have been imported into the United States from Hungary, Russia, Austria, and Ireland, and large numbers come from Argentina. Such is the irony of fate; being indigenous to the United States and existing here in countless numbers, the wild turkey was domesticated, and later taken to other countries, from which it is now imported in the "dressed" form.

In Texas, Colorado, and the Dakotas many flocks of a thousand or more birds are raised annually. Frequently these large flocks are herded on the prairies in much the same manner as are sheep and cattle.

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Wilson for Earlier War? Prayer Plus Planes New Disease Danger Ethiopian Victory?

Prof. A. M. Arnett of North Carolina university says it was not Wilson that kept this country out of war a while, but the country that kept Wilson out of the war longer than he would have stayed out.



Arthur Brisbane

by three men—Champ Clark, Congressman Flood and Claude Kitchin, Democratic floor leader of the house.

How deep should we have sunk in our depression if Woodrow Wilson had carried out his alleged plan and started the war one year ahead of time in 1916?

How many millions of Americans would have been killed (they were always honored with front row places)? How many tens of billions would have been added to the public debt and the repudiated debts of Europe?

The archbishop of Canterbury, head of the official Church of England, has invited all European Christian communicants to join in prayer for peace, with resolutions outlawing all war.

While the archbishop takes that desirable step the British government works rapidly on 8,000 airplanes of the fighting kind. Nothing like airplanes to back up eloquent prayer for peace.

Uncle Sam has on his hands the job of preventing the spread of disease throughout the country and its importation from abroad.

Doctor Curran, in charge of insects for the American Museum of Natural History, warns New York it may be invaded by malaria brought into northern New Jersey by a COO camp worker from the South. The anopheles mosquito, always present, has been spreading the germs. He cannot do that unless he first bites a malaria carrier.

Halle Selassie's fighting Gen. Dejezmatch Hailu Kebede sends cheerful news to his royal master:

"We fought and beat the Italians from dawn to dusk; 200 Italian white soldiers, twenty Italian officers, killed. Cannon, bombs and innumerable batteries of machine guns made murderous concert against us, but God protected your humble Christian soldiers, and the Lion of Judah was victorious."

Ethiopians persist in their theory that they are the only Christians involved. They say the Italians are Catholics, therefore not Christians, which would amuse the Italians, if they had time for amusement.

Rome calls the General Dejazmatch dispatch "customary Ethiopian inaccuracy."

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, booked for a big political talk in Washington, D. C., and invited by Mrs. Roosevelt to stop at the White House during his stay in Washington, declines the invitation, explaining that he will have too big a crowd with him.

Politicians do not think that the only reason they expect Governor Smith to "cut loose" and say things about the administration that would not come gracefully from a White House guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Triplett of Jenkins, Ky., who have just received from heaven their third set of triplets, say: "We are just tickled to death, but imagine our surprise." Besides nine triplets, the happy couple have one set of twins, all eleven living and all fortunate. The baby born in a family that wants babies is the fortunate child.

For the woman or man who does not want children, the wise thing is not to have them—for the children's sake.

Hitler knows what he wants, tells the rest of the world, and thus far the world has let him help himself.

He wanted an end of the Versailles treaty and got it. He wanted the right to build a strong battle fleet and England consented.

Now he says he must have an air force as strong as that of France, and will proceed to build it. He demands also the return of all colonies taken from Germany.

Austria will pay Uncle Sam on account of debt thirty million schillings, payment in American paper dollars. At the current rate of exchange Uncle Sam will get \$5,634,000. Our paper dollars are convenient for Europeans, for they know, although we do not, that our dollar is worth 50 cents.

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Famine
By ALBERT P. TERHUNE
© McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

WHEN Forrest's new and badly built house began to settle, the mammoth steel door of his new and well built steel storeroom developed a tendency to swing shut unless it was propped wide.

So, when Forrest ran back indoors after his start for the railroad station he rammed his folded gloves in the crack of the storeroom door to keep it from shutting behind him and imprisoning him.

His family had taken an early train for the steamship, leaving him to lock the house. The servants had been paid off and dismissed the night before. Halfway to the train Forrest remembered he had not taken the silver basket from under the bed when it should have been transferred to the storeroom safe.

Back he ran with some time to spare. He yanked the basket from its time hallowed hiding place and carried it to the safe. There springing the combination he opened the door, stuffed his gloves in the hinge crack, stepped in and put the silver basket on a shelf.

He turned just in time to see the insecurely stuck gloves tumble to the floor and the great door begin to swing. He leaped to push it wide again. His shoe sole slipped on the glassy smooth floor. He fell prone. His outflung right hand hit full force against the steel portal yet hard enough to smash his wrist watch. In an instant he was on his feet again. But in less than an instant the safe door had clanged shut.

Forrest was a prisoner in a six by eight steel sheathed storeroom whose door's combination lock could be opened only from the outside.

Except for himself the house was empty. In another three hours his wife and children were to board the Gothia for a ten weeks' cruise of the Mediterranean. He himself had been heading west on a long business trip. Nobody knew where he was and no one was likely to enter his house again for at least two months.

Forrest sat down on a shelf edge and took mental account of stock. Here he was in a soundproof steel room with a combination lock on its door; with no morsel of food nor drop of water. Here apparently he must stay until he should die of hunger and thirst. This, if the air of the place should not become so vitiated as to asphyxiate him.

Reaction and realization set in. Gallantly Forrest battled against a crazy yearning to hammer the unyielding steel door and to fill the soundproof place with his yells for help. That way madness lay and he must keep his head. He dozed.

At last after what seemed a week of fitful slumber there on the shelf edge Forrest awoke with a jump. Then he remembered. Above him hung the electric light he had switched on as he came into the storeroom with the basket. In his pocket was a letter he had planned to mail on his way to the station—a letter asking the light company to shut off the electricity during his absence. Well he would not die in the dark anyhow. That was some slight comfort.

And now came the first gnawings of hunger. His breakfast had been light. The hour must be long past noon. He craved food. He glanced around him at the shelves with their neat burden of household valuables. There were silver and bric-a-brac and clothing and the like; but nothing in the remotest way edible. This discovery by itself turned Forrest's hunger into raging famine.

He endured the growing torment as long as he could. Then he began to explore. Nothing in the place could serve precisely as food. But there was a half-length candle lying at the back of a shelf where it had been left when the electrician installed the light. Another wait. Then Forrest picked up the candle. Arctic explorers had kept alive on tallow. He chewed perhaps a third of the greasy and tasteless taper. His hunger momentarily was abated. He sank into another and longer lethargy of sleep.

From this he waked famishing and weak. Wolfishly he devoured the rest of the candle. Starvation was too keen to admit of saving even a crumb of the no longer repellent food. He had no knowledge of the length of time he had been a prisoner. But by calculation, he felt it could not have been less than two days—perhaps three. For despite his gobbling of the half candle, he found himself noticeably weaker. Once more the stupor of despair overcame him.

He was roused from the coma by the sudden opening of the safe door. His wife stood on the threshold. On her way to the city she, too, had remembered the basket of precious table silver lying unguarded beneath her bed. She had left the train at the nearest station and taxied home. To her horror a disheveled and haggard figure lurched weakly from the floor at her feet and staggered out into the hallway.

Before Forrest could answer any of his wife's volleyed questions his eye fell on the hall clock. Then from his hunger-and-thirst parched lips croaked the babbling words:

"Good Lord! I—I was in there just—just fifty-five minutes!"

PRETTY STENCILED POT HOLDER SET

By GRANDMOTHER CLARK
These two little Sunbonnet Girls seem to be having some important secrets. They both work in the kitchen and are talking over their day's experience. They are the little pot holder girls, a cute and novel holder to have in your kitchen. The two dresses are the pot holders and



when hanging up snap into place under the bonnet. Finished size 11 by 14 inches.

This stamped and tinted piece of material, No. 1002, will be mailed for 15 cents. This is to be made up and worked in simple outline stitch. Address Home Craft Co., Dept. A, Nineteenth and St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo. Inclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply when writing for any information.

Aid to Digestion

It takes an iron constitution to keep feeling up to par under the weight of festive meals. That's why hostesses are wise in introducing a custom that is receiving a wider acceptance everywhere. Chewing gum does aid digestion and satisfies a certain craving for sweets after the heavy meal when you get to the point where you just can't swallow another mouthful.

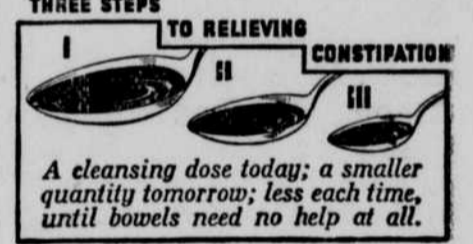
Chewing gum may be served with the coffee in the living room, passed around with the cigarettes, or put on the table immediately after dessert.

Greatest Tree

Engineers, after completing an examination of the largest trees in the Sequoia and General Grant National parks, in California, have concluded that the General Sherman tree in Sequoia park has a greater bulk in the trunk than any other living tree, containing more than 500,000 board feet of lumber.

NO UPSETS

The proper treatment for a bilious child



ANY mother knows the reason when her child stops playing, eats little, is hard to manage. Constipation. But what a pity so few know the sensible way to set things right!

The ordinary laxatives, of even ordinary strength, must be carefully regulated as to dosage.

A liquid laxative is the answer, mothers. The answer to all your worries over constipation. A liquid can be measured. The dose can be exactly suited to any age or need. Just reduce the dose each time, until the bowels are moving of their own accord and need no help.

This treatment will succeed with any child and with any adult.

The doctors use liquid laxatives. Hospitals use the liquid form. If it is best for their use, it is best for home use. The liquid laxative most families use is Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Any druggist has it.

* Farms for Sale on Crop Payments.
J. Mulhall - Sioux City, Iowa.

Helium From Sweden
On Oland Island, Sweden, a new source of helium has been discovered.

COMMON COLDS

Relieve the distressing symptoms by applying Menthohatum in nostrils and rubbing on chest.

MENTHOLATUM
Gives COMFORT Daily

If you prefer nose drops, or throat spray, call for the NEW MENTHOLATUM LIQUID in handy bottle with dropper

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