**Christmas Food**

**Barnum’s Animals (commonly known as Animal Crackers) were first produced with a string on the box so they could be used as Christmas tree ornaments. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 24)***

**The first candy cane was made in Germany in 1670 when, supposedly, a choirmaster handed bent sugar sticks out to his young choir to keep the singers quiet during Christmas services. Today almost 2 billion candy canes are manufactured each year. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 18)**

**My wife’s parents don’t like me. On Christmas Day my wife said, “Who wants to carve the turkey?” And my father-in-law said, “You carve him, you married him.” *(Quote magazine)***

**Man: “They’re in the oven now. Should only be about ten minutes.” Garfield: “Ten minutes? Do you realize how long that is in ‘Christmas cookie’ minutes?” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Wife: “Ralph, these cookies aren’t for us, they’re for the Steinbauers! They were left on our porch by mistake! Go take them to their rightful owner!” As Steinbauer opens his front door Ralph says: “Here, Steinbauer. Someone left you a half-a-dozen Christmas cookies!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Charlie Brown writes: “Dear Gramma, thank you for the Christmas cookies. They were good. Thank you, thank you, thank you. What else can I say?” Snoopy adds: “Send some more.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A boar’s head is a traditional Christmas dish. According to a popular story, the unlucky boar whose head began the custom in the Middle Ages was killed by choking to death on a book of Greek philosophy. The story claims that a university student saved himself from a charging boar by ramming a book of Aristotle’s writings down its throat. He then cut off the boar’s head and brought it back to his college. *(absolutetrivia.com)***

**Crankshaft: “I’m packed. I don’t think I could eat another bite. No wonder they call it holiday foodstuff.” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**Report is you can still eat your new Christmas gingerbread house up to six months after Christmas*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**In the midst of playing with all of his toys, Billy asks his Mom: “Aw, Mommy! Do I HAFTA eat Christmas breakfast?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A highly distressed man walked into his pastor's office. He exclaimed: “Pastor, I feel terrible! I just stole a Christmas turkey from someone I know! My family isn't able to buy one, so I stole it! I feel so guilty now that I've done it. Would you please take the turkey so that I won't feel guilty?” “Certainly not! I don't want the turkey,” replied the pastor. “You must go to the person from whom you stole it and tell them what you have done.” “I already did that,” said the man. “They wouldn't take the turkey. So now I don't know what to do. Please help me.” “Well, in that case, since you have already talked to the person, and they wouldn't take it, then I believe it is appropriate for you and your family to enjoy it.” “Thank you, pastor!” said the man, and he rushed out of the office. The pastor went home and discovered that the family's Christmas turkey had been stolen. (Marjorie Carroll's memo)**

**Some people are squeamish about raising their own holiday turkeys -- but not me. Back in January we bought a turkey who became like a member of the family. We kept him in the house, fed him and took him for walks. But when the time came, there was no nonsense about it. We had him for Christmas. He sat on my right. (Robert Orben)**

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