**Turkey Talk**

**If someone is addicted to eating Thanksgiving leftovers, can he quit cold turkey? *(Michael Morse, in Reader’s Digest)***

**269 million: The number of Broadbreasted White turkeys – the most common variety – that Americans will consume this year. *(USA Today, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, November 26, 2003)***

**A woman picked through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but she couldn’t find one large enough to feed her family. “Do these turkeys get any bigger?” she asked a stock boy. “No, ma’am,” he replied. “They’re dead.” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**The body is 98 percent water, except after Thanksgiving, when it’s 98 percent turkey. (Gary Wise & Lance Aldrich, in Real Life Adventures)**

**At the first Thanksgiving Day, turkey was the main dish even though the Indian guests didn’t seem to care for turkey. But the pilgrims insisted. Seems that they didn’t have enough bread crumbs to stuff a buffalo. *(George Kottwitz, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**CHEERS: To the people at Butterball who keep smiling while answering questions like these: Is it okay to thaw my turkey in the bathtub while bathing my kids? Can I use my oven's self-cleaning cycle to speed up the cooking process? If I cut my turkey with a chain saw, will the oil affect the taste? The family dog is inside the turkey and can't get out. (AARP Bulletin / Real Possibilities, November, 2015)**

**First man: “It’s not going to be easy, but this time I really mean it – I’m quitting cold turkey!” Second man: “Well, good for you! I must admit, I didn’t even know you were a smoker!” First man: “What do you mean? I don’t smoke!” Second man: “Then what were you talking about giving up cold turkey?” First man: “Like I said. I’m giving up cold turkey. I’m sick of eating leftovers from Thanksgiving dinner.” (Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)**

**Billy: “What did the turkey say to his computer?” Dolly: “I don’t know.” Billy: “Google Google Google!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dolly: “Mommy, for Thanksgiving let’s decorate some turkey eggs.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**In 1863, a Missouri farmer drove his flock of 500 turkeys overland the 600 miles to Denver. Only way to market before mechanical refrigeration. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Roughly 32 percent of the turkeys in the United States are eaten on Thanksgiving Day. Some 13 percent go into pet food. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 242)***

**One of the strangest traditions we practice is eating turkey on Thanksgiving. It’s a strange tradition because according to increasing historical evidence, the Pilgrims – at the first Thanksgiving – did not eat turkey. Recent research reveals there wasn’t a turkey within miles of the Pilgrim’s first Thanksgiving. The main foods were venison, goose, and duck. You can, of course, enjoy your turkey at Thanksgiving, but just realize that the Pilgrims probably didn’t eat any. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 231)***

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**As Mom brings the turkey to the Thanksgiving table, Dennis says: “I'll bet he wishes he had flown south for the winter.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**The pro football team had just finished practice when a turkey strutted onto the field. “I want to try out,” the turkey told the coach. Stunned, the players stared as the bird caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. After 30 minutes, the coach had seen enough. “You’re excellent,” he said. “Sign with us, and you’ll get a huge bonus. “Forget the bonus,” the turkey said. “All I want to know is, does the season go past Thanksgiving.” (Reader’s Digest)**

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**Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the turkey, not the eagle, America’s national bird. He believed the bald eagle didn’t live its life “honestly” and considered the turkey a more “respectable” bird. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 244)***

**Heart: “Ben Franklin thought our national bird should have been the turkey. He said that the bald eagle was lazy and cowardly. The turkey, he said, was a true native of America, a bird known for its bravery and intellect.” Friend: “Ben Franklin was a genius, but he didn’t know much about advertising.” *(Mark Tatullli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Hammie says to Mom: “This week we made construction paper turkeys, cupcake turkeys, popsicle stick turkeys, marshmallow turkeys, apple turkeys, and pine cone turkeys. Can we have ham for Thanksgiving?” (Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**When actress Helen Hayes decided to cook her first Thanksgiving turkey, she told her family that if the bird didn’t come out right, they’d all go have dinner at their favorite hotel. When she carried the turkey from the kitchen into the dining room, she found her entire family sitting at the table in their hats and coats. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 151)***

**Pig says to the turkey: “Sure, you’re in the clear after Thanksgiving. I’ve still got football season to get through!” (Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)**

**What did the turkey say upon receiving an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner? “No, thanks, I’m stuffed.” *(A. Jaynelle St. Jean, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Hammie: “Here’s a special Thanksgiving turkey that we made in class.” Mom: “For me?” Hammie: “Yeah. You can eat the whole thing, too!” Mom: “Wow!” Hammie: “See? The body is a cupcake, the head is a gumdrop, and the eyes and the beak are little pieces of candy.” Mom: “Yum!” Hammie: “We ran out of glue, so I had to stick everything on with spit.” (Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)**

**THE TURKEY LOST OUT: It took six years of dispute before the bald eagle was chosen as our national emblem in 1789. Benjamin Franklin had been a strong opponent, calling the eagle a symbol of conquerors and accusing it of having "bad moral Character" and living by "sharping and robbing." Furthermore, he wrote, the eagle "is generously poor, and often very lousy." Franklin felt the turkey was a "much more respectable Bird and withal a true, original Native of America." Congress rejected the turkey as a bluffer and a show-off and felt that the soaring bald eagle, also a bird native to the United States, was a more majestic symbol. (John & Claire Whitcomb, in Oh Say Can You See , p. 97)**

**November is when Americans close their eyes, bow their \heads and give thanks for the turkeys they are about to receive. Then they vote. (The American Legion Magazine)**

**The turkey that President Obama will pardon this Thanksgiving is from California. The turkey said, "I don't need a pardon. I need a job." (Conan O'Brien, in AARP Bulletin / Real Possibilities, November, 2015)**

**Dennis: “I wish the Pilgrims had sent out for PIZZA on the first Thanksgiving ‘stead of shootin’ a turkey.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Dennis: “No more turkey for me, Dad. I’m savin’ a little thankfulness for dessert.” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Husband says to wife: “Do I have the honor of sawing the turkey again this year?” (Hoest/Reiner, in The Lockhorns comic strip)**

**Overheard: “I can still remember the first time I watched my mother cook a Thanksgiving turkey. It was disgusting. Every half-hour or so she’d open the oven, pull out the turkey and stick a thermometer into it. I told her, ‘If it’s that sick, I don’t want any.’” *(Ron Dentinger, in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Chronicle)***

**A plump white-feathered turkey was spared from winding up on a Thanksgiving dinner plate when President Bush granted it a pardon Monday in keeping with White House tradition. The national turkey and an alternate bird are being sent to a nearby petting farm. The bird was placed on a table in the Rose Garden for the holiday ceremony, and Bush patted it on the head. (Rocky Mountain News, November 25, 2003)**

**Dennis observes his Mom taking the turkey out of the oven, and asks: “Isn’t it too late to be taking his temperature?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**Dolly: “I'm glad turkeys taste better than they look.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Billy: “I know what turkeys are thankful for today. Vegetarians!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Native Americans never actually ate turkey; killing such a timid bird was thought to indicate laziness. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 151)***

**Man: “You’re having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?” Woman: “I’m a little turkeyed out.” (Tom Batiuk, in Funky Winkerbean comic strip)**

**Woman: “So, you're a vegetarian?” Man: “Yup.” Woman: “No turkey on Thanksgiving?” Man: “Right.” Woman: “So what are you thankful for?” Man: “Thankful, I'm not a turkey.” (Lennie Peterson, in Big Picture comic strip)**

**Dennis says to his Mom: “While we’re waiting for the turkey to cook, let’s order a pizza!” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Keep a close watch on the Thanksgiving turkey! If he sees his shadow, we’ll have six more weeks of leftovers! (American Greetings)**

**Just in time for Thanksgiving, the wholesale price of American frozen turkeys jumped to an average of $1.09 a pound last week, the highest price ever and up 28 percent from a year earlier. The jump is due to the rising cost of corn and other feed. *(Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 26, 2010)***

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