

Presidential Turkey Survives

by Bill Lindau

That handsome turkey who graced the front page of *The News-Journal* of Thanksgiving Day didn't end his career on President Reagan's -- or anybody else's -- table for Thanksgiving dinner.

He's still very much alive at a petting farm at Reston, Va., near Washington, D.C.

This intelligence comes from a news report published the day before Thanksgiving. The report, filed by the *Los Angeles Times* - *Washington Post News Service*, says, "The First Turkey made a smooth landing Tuesday at the White House and won high praise from his commander-in-chief."

As last week's edition of *The News-Journal* reported, the turkey, born and reared at Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery Farms in Hoke County, was presented to the president by Bill Prestage, a Tar Heel Hatchery partner of Wyatt Upchurch, president of the company. Prestage delivered it in the tradition of the National Turkey Federation, whose president makes

the presentation each Thanksgiving to the president of the U.S. Prestage is president of Carroll's Foods of Clinton, which gets all the poulters Tar Heel produces.

The news report describes First Turkey as "a 50-pound broad-breasted flight turkey hailing from Warsaw, N.C." (Warsaw is about 15 miles east of Clinton. Incidentally, the town between Clinton and Warsaw is Turkey.)

The wire service reported also that Reagan said this:

"You know, he almost was the national bird," referring to Benjamin Franklin's efforts to get the turkey declared by Congress the national bird of the United States (The eagle won).

I think along about this season he is a national bird," Reagan added, resting a friendly hand upon the velvety white back of Tom.

Reagan praised Tom as a "very well behaved" Turkey.

The First Turkey of 1981 distinguished himself forever by going "ape" in the White House Rose Garden, and Prestage, remember-

ing that near-disaster, told reporter the National Turkey Federation was taking no chances.

For two months, he said, he had been preparing Tom for his moment of glory with frequent and heavy doses of human contact.

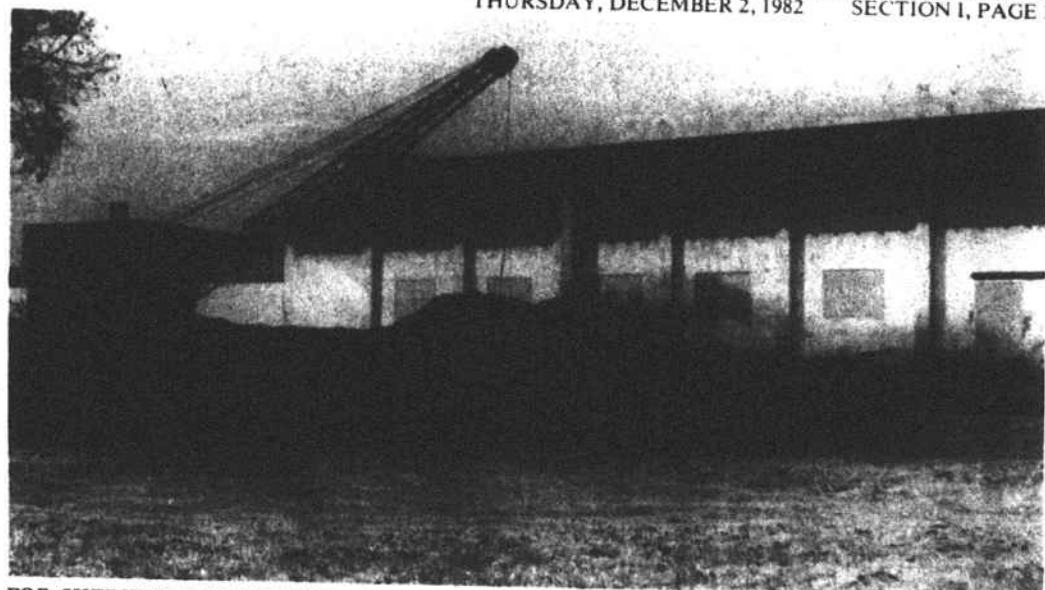
The turkey, however, was not, he declared, prepared with doses of anything stronger.

He said this after a cameraman said the turkey "looks like he's on 'ludes. The cameraman was referring to quaaludes, tranquilizers used by veterinarians on animals.

Reagan allotted 10 minutes to the reception of the turkey, between meetings of the National Security Council and the Cabinet.

The reception also was telecast across the country on network television news reports the evening of November 23.

A turkey of West Coast origin was the main course for the Reagans for their Thanksgiving dinner at their ranch in California, an honor Tom of Hoke County naturally didn't mind missing at all.



FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT -- This digging last week was being done in preparation of a "bed" for a gasoline tank for the sheriff's Department across the street. The cruisers will be filled at a pump when the installation is completed.

Unemployment Drops Again

(Continued from page 1)

Division, said, "The combination of some increases in the number of persons filing claims for unemployment insurance benefits and the seasonal decline in agricultural jobs primarily produced the rise in October rates."

Forty-eight counties recorded double-digit rates, with Ashe registering the highest -- 21.5%, with 2,390 of the labor force of 11,140 unemployed.

The lowest was the 3.7 recorded by Orange County.

In the Fayetteville Standard

Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Hoke County, the rate rose to 9.6% in October from September's 8.2%.

Statewide, agriculture, a major contributor to the increase, lost 16,600 jobs chiefly because the growing and harvesting seasons ended.

The rise came after two months of decreases in the rate. In September the rate was 8.7% and in August, 9.0%. The October rate is produced by a total of 276,300 unemployed.

Manufacturing jobs showed a net

loss of 6,100 statewide. The most significant decrease occurred in electrical machinery occupations.

In manufacturing general, the ESC reports, "it would appear that several categories chose the route of temporary, and, in some cases, permanent, layoffs in an effort to continue operations."

In contrast, non-manufacturing jobs experienced a net gain of 11,800.

Lumbee Coop Gets \$5.5 Million Loan

The Lumbee Electrical Membership Cooperative received the green light Monday to continue work on a \$5.3 million improvement project which could add as many as 600 new Hoke County customers to the system.

Funding for two-thirds of the project was approved in Washington D.C. Monday, a spokesman for Eighth District Rep. William G. Hefner said.

A loan of \$3.7 million will be made by the federal Rural Electrification Management Association (REA) to the Lumbee Coop at an interest rate of 5%, spokesman Jim

Lewis said.

The low interest REA funds will be tied with a \$1.6 million loan from Cooperative Finance Corporation at 13% interest.

A large portion of the funds will be used to construct a new substation in the Scurlock area, Coop spokesman Jim Autry said.

That substation will improve the electrical service to the area and should help prevent outages which now occur frequently, Autry said.

Another substation will also be constructed in the Quewhiffle District near Ashley Heights.

That facility should also improve

service and allow the Coop to add new customers to the lines, Autry said.

"We estimate during the next 24 month period, we will add 250 to 300 new customers in Hoke County," the Coop spokesman said.

The Lumbee Coop serves customers in Robeson, Scotland, and Cumberland counties in addition to Hoke.

Construction on the Scurlock station has begun and should be completed within the next 12 months, Autry said, noting that Quewhiffle will take about two years to complete.

Area Incidents

Chain Saw, Dog Stolen

The Raeford Police Department received complaints Thanksgiving Day of one break-in and the theft of a chain saw. Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported.

Guy Hardman of the Hoke County Ambulance Service reported someone tried to break into the organization's building but nothing was missing.

Sam A. Galbreth of 668 Dockery Rd., Raeford, reported the same day that his \$450 chain saw was stolen from his pickup truck while the truck was parked on North

Main Street in front of Raeford Hardware.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Department received the following.

A tank of heating and cooking gas was stolen from outside the mobile home of Mrs. Nellie Black on Rt. 3, Raeford, November 23 or 24.

The tank and gas were valued at \$100. Mrs. Black said she discovered the loss November 24 after investigating to find out why her gas flame didn't appear on her stove after she turned the stove on. Someone broke into the Edith

Best office building on the N.C. 211 cutoff between November 22 and 24 but nothing was missing.

The damage amounted to about \$150.

James Allen Elleby of Green Street, Raeford, reported November 22 someone stole his pet bull dog from his yard.

A device possibly an artillery simulator exploded outside Spencer Morrison's home on the U.S. 401 bypass October 30, shattering the front windows of his house.

The damage totaled about \$100.

Around Town

(Continued from page 1)

located where the field was at that time.

In the late 20s or early 30s the ballfield was moved to the lot now occupied by the J.W. Turlington School. It did not have a fence around the field, but a part of a fence ran along the Aberdeen highway across from the Lewis home.

Around 1932 or 1933 the ball park was moved to a location on the Laurinburg highway and was near the spot where the Wagon Wheel Restaurant is now located. This is

where I played high school ball in 1934 and 1935.

Many people will remember the baseball series about that time between Raeford and Rowland, Jake May pitched in that series for Raeford and won the game with a home run 1-0. This series was played in the park on the Laurinburg highway.

Then the baseball park was moved behind the Armory and became known as Armory Park. The Williamsport Grays of the Eastern League trained here and

used that park for two springs. Many players that went on to become stars in the majors passed through that park.

Lights were installed and night baseball and football were played at that site. I don't know what condition the lights or park are in at the present time.

The baseball field that is now in use for the city is on the high school property. There are no lights and only day games can be played.

The history of Raeford baseball could fill many pages of books. It was almost like ice cream and watermelon around this town. Maybe the grand old pastime will return and a well lighted field will be located in town.

I am not sure if a team ever used what was known as "The Pasture" for a field. This location is behind the J.W. Turlington school and is now used for a playground.

If you can add to these locations, please let me know.

November Rain Here 1.7 Inches

November brought 1.7 inches of rain to Raeford, Robert Gatlin, Raeford observer for the National Weather Service, reported.

The total for the same month a year ago was .95 inch, and for November 1980 it was 2.65, Gatlin's records show.

Time Running Out On Energy Help

The Hoke County Department of Social Services has taken 870 applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program as of Monday, November 29th.

This is 372 less than the total that applied in 1981.

Ken Witherspoon, Director of Social Services, is concerned that individuals might not realize that December 10th is the last day applications can be taken.

Even if individuals are participating in other benefit programs, a separate application must be made for Energy.

Additional time for applying for energy has been set for Thursday, December 2nd until 6 p.m.; on Saturday, December 4th from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.; on Tuesday,

December 7th until 6 p.m., and on Thursday, December 9th until 6 p.m.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program is a one-time payment effort which is intended only to partially assist households with heating costs.

The head of the household or a representative of the head of the household should make plans immediately to apply if they have not already applied.

Elderly or handicapped individuals who are unable to come to the Department to apply may call 875-8725 and a representative from the Department will make plans for securing an application.

Other questions about the program may also be directed to the same telephone number.

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