

Tired Of Christmas Turkey?

Try A Roast 'Alternative'

It may seem daring or outrageous, but it is not really un-American to eat something besides turkey for Christmas dinner.

Turkey may be the Christmas favorite for most Americans. But in many a household, at the head of the table will be a Christmas goose, a suckling pig, a roast of beef, a ham, or a lutefisk.

They are all among the traditional holiday heroes that have had festive boards groaning since long before the first turkey got it from a Pilgrim's blunderbuss.

So, here are some alternative suggestions for Christmas dinner, impartially offered by the National Geographic Society.

Drumstick King

First, to give turkeys their due, Americans will eat some 21,700,000 of them this Christmas, or about half as many as got the ax for Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation.

The gobbler is a native Ameri-

can, but was brought back from the New World and soon became a big hit with Europeans, especially Englishmen.

Somebody rhymed: "From the low peasant to the lord/The turkey smokes on every board." Before the turkey arrived, however, aristocracy made do with swans or peacock pie and lesser fold feasted on goose.

The Christmas goose, as served up in the pages of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," fattened Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and Ebenezer Scrooge in perhaps fiction's most famous yuletide repast.

The turkey may now be Number One Bird, but many Englishmen still smack their lips over roast goose.

And a Christmas goose will also be guest of honor at some 375,000 American dinner tables this year, though the National Goose Council says that is half as many as about

20 years ago.

Apple to Oink

Suckling pigs, with apples or oranges in their mouths and weighing from 10 to 40 pounds, will star at some 200,000 Christmas feasts in the United States, according to packing house estimates. Roasts of beef with Yorkshire pudding and baked hams also will be traditional favorites in many American homes.

Boiled ham and that supreme test of ethnic loyalty, lutefisk, boiled dried cod, will be steaming centerpiece of many Scandinavian-American Christmas meals. Some Austrian and German families will remember Old World Weihnachtsens with carp.

Following specialized tradition

or tastes, some dinners may face up to a boar's head on a platter, as in days of yore, or even Christmas chili, Christmas pot roast, or Christmas egg foo yong.

For that big family gathering, a 1770 English recipe for yule pie included four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, two woodcocks, two snipes, four partridges, two neat's tongues, two curlews, seven blackbirds, and six pigeons. Baked until done, it served 150.

Whatever is served him, the American sitting down to Christmas dinner may have been who Ben Franklin had in mind when he wrote: "Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside."



Christmas is that wonderful time of year when we can greet all of our friends and wish them the best of the season. We are fortunate in having so many great friends and patrons and we hope that we can continue to do business with you. Have a happy holiday!

GRAHAM'S GULF SERVICE

Main St.



Read Matthew 2:13-15

"And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt." (Matthew 2:14 RSV)

It was our first Christmas in Egypt, and my three children and I were walking down the moonlit road to the evening service at the little stucco church.

"Aw, Mom, it doesn't even seem like Christmas!" my 10-year-old complained, scuffling up the dust. "I miss the snow and all the pretty windows," Melissa added. "And where's Santa Claus?" Troy asked.

The children's homesickness spurred my own memories of past holidays when I had rushed in haste past carolers, department store Santas, and tinsel trees to accomplish all the seasonal tasks.

A donkey's bray interrupted my reminiscence, and I pulled the children out of the way under some tall poinsettia trees. Donkeys were as common a sight on the road as bicycles and goats. But this time we stopped to watch.

A brown-robed man was gently leading a donkey, on which was seated a woman holding a baby. The mother's dark cloak was pinned by her teeth across her shoulders and face to protect the child from the night air.

The children and I looked at each other and without a word hurried down the road to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas, the birth of the baby Jesus.

PRAYER: Father, we thank You for what Christmas is all about, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



WISHING YOU THE BEST THAT THE SEASON HAS TO OFFER YOU AND YOURS!

WOOD'S

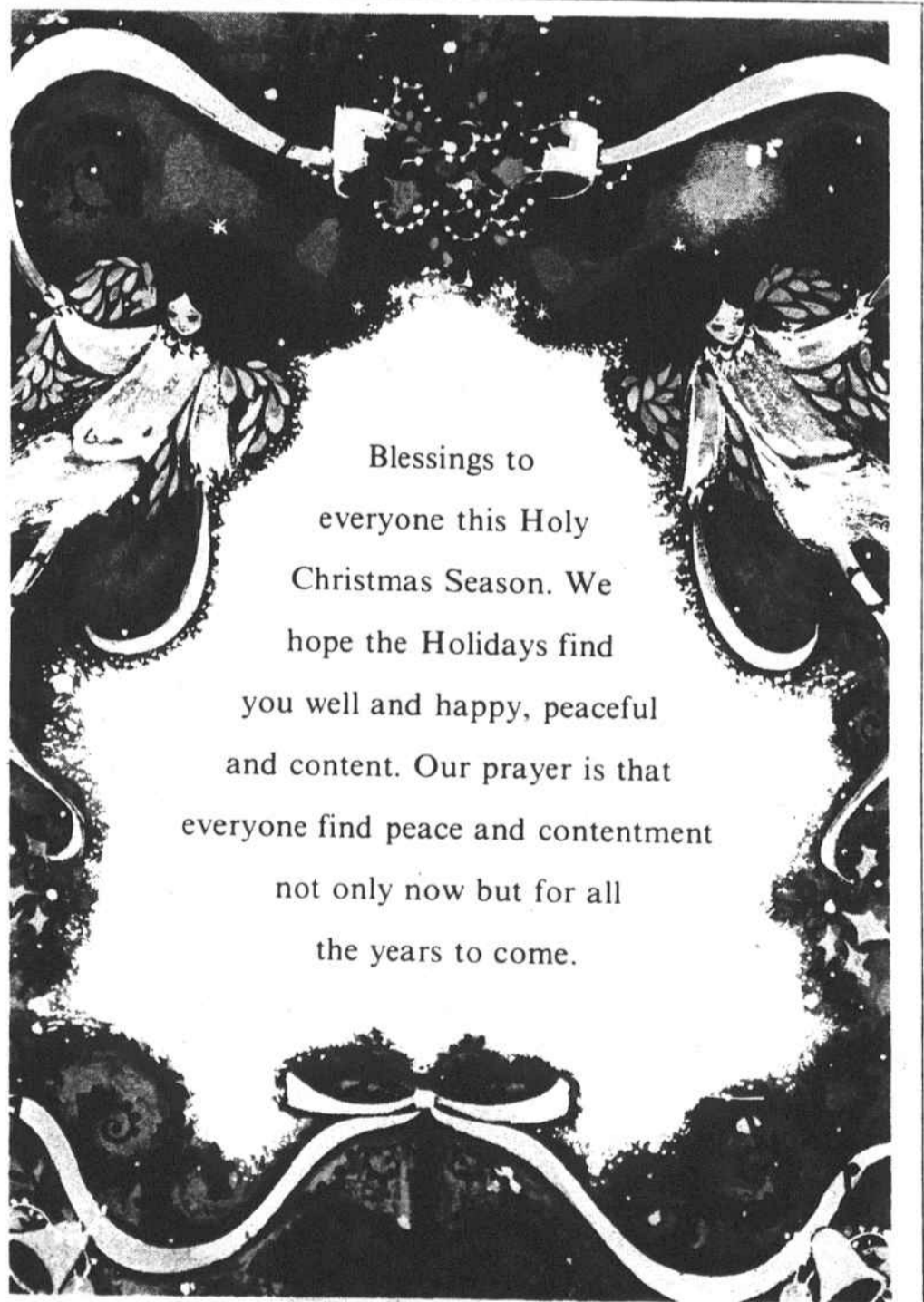
AIRPLANE CROP SPRAYING SERVICE

ABERDEEN RD.



Wishing you all of the blessings of the Holiday Season to you and your loved ones. We hope that you will always find Peace and Contentment, guided by that everlasting light that leads the shepherds in the fields to the manger. Have a happy and holy Christmas season.

Dundarrach Trading Company



Blessings to everyone this Holy Christmas Season. We hope the Holidays find you well and happy, peaceful and content. Our prayer is that everyone find peace and contentment not only now but for all the years to come.

TexElastic Corp.

Manufacturers of Quality Elastic Thread