

Opinions

On The Road Again

by Pam Frederick

What are your plans for Thanksgiving?



Noel Barkley -- I'm going to Papa's and eat turkey. Papa lives in Charlotte.



Karen Houston -- After I eat turkey I'm going to play in my room.



Ricky Jones -- I'm gonna stay with Janet and eat french fries and turkey.



Bart Upchurch -- I'm going to the beach and watch my brother play tennis at Bogue Sound.



Jamey Williams -- I'm going to play football all day.



Justin King -- I don't know.



Janet Davis -- I'm gonna play and eat turkey.



Jamaal Cook -- Eat dinner and play and go over to my cousins house.

Razzle, Dazzle, Not Facts

The television networks treated the viewing audience (what little there was) on election night to a razzle dazzle display of electronic gadgets accompanied by a cacophony of punditry citing incomplete election returns, inaccurate polls and bad guesses. The result: some pretty bad reporting and some erroneous forecasting of results. A few governors, senators and congressmen who had been "elected" by the networks found out the next day they had not been.

At the end of the week the Nielsen ratings showed that the three networks attracted less than a third of the U.S. households. If they had their sets turned on, a majority of households turned to entertainment, according to Nielsen.

All of which lends credence to a new study just conducted by the Newspaper Advertising Bureau which reports 49% of readers rely most on newspapers for informa-

tion about the major problems facing the U.S. Asked to identify the nation's most important problem in their own words, and then to assess the relative merits of the mass media as their most relied-on source of information about that problem, 49% favored newspapers as compared to 28% mentioning television, 8% magazines, 4% radio etc. Major problems cited were: inflation, energy, international problems, and dissatisfaction with government. Many news analysts portrayed the election returns as a vote pro or con the satisfaction issue.

It all casts new doubt on those tv surveys which allegedly show the American public gets most of its news about what is happening in the world from the tube. As the post-election results showed, most of the American public wasn't even watching.

--From Editor & Publisher

S.S., Driver Offices Schedules Cited

The schedules of the State Driver's License and U.S. Social Security offices in Raeford follows.

The license office is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Social Security office is open on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Both services are offered at the building behind The Grocery Mart, 513 W. Prospect Ave.

"Things That Matter"

by Lucian Coleman

As we look toward the holiday season, when the turkey will be guest of honor at millions of American tables, let's pause to pay tribute to that noble bird, without whom we would have much less cause to be thankful at Thanksgiving.

It's high time someone spoke up for that distinguished American bird whose name has suffered so much abuse in recent years. You know what I'm talking about. In today's vernacular, especially among our young, calling a person "turkey" is approximately equivalent to accusing him of being a "wimp" or "nerd."

That, it seems to me, is as insulting to the turkey as it is to the human victims of such fowl language.

Remember, we are talking about a bird who, a times, has been seriously suggested as a national symbol, and with good reason.

The turkey is a genuine native of this continent, 100% American in origin.

When the first Europeans reached these shores, they found the wild turkey waiting for them here. But, long before that, the Aztec Indians of southern Mexico had discovered the virtues of these tasty birds, and had managed to domesticate them.

History records that Spanish explorers borrowed some of these fowl from the Aztecs, and took them back to their homeland somewhere around 1519.

Not realizing that they were returning these wandering birds to their original habitat, early colonists brought some of them to North America. These domesticated turkeys married some of their wild cousins on these shores and settled down to the important task of producing the six major varieties known to Americans today.

By the way, turkeys got their name from an error in judgment on the part of these English settlers. They mistook the bird for the guinea fowl which, though native to Africa, had been introduced into England by Turkish traders. Thus, they were popularly known as "turkey fowl."

Although turkey was one of the main items on the menu at the first thanksgiving feast in Plymouth colony, back in 1621, the bird didn't really come into its own as standard American table fare until the middle of the present century.

Turkeys were raised commercially here in the 1920's, but they were few in number and high in price. By 1960, however, over 90 million birds were being raised annually, about 6.8 pounds of ready-to-cook turkey per capita.

Somewhere along the line, the turkey lost out to the bald eagle in the national symbol contest. And that's understandable, for the eagle does cut a fine figure as it soars through spacious skies and over fertile fields of grain.

But the turkey gladdens the hearts of millions of Americans at holiday tables every year. And I've never known a single family to invite a bald eagle to Thanksgiving dinner.

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