

# Five cooks vying for contest cash

Turkeys cooking and turkeys strutting ... both can be observed at the First Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival set for September 18-21, 1985 in Raeford.

The Fourth Annual North Carolina Turkey Cooking contest finals will get the Festival "cookin'" Wednesday morning at 11 a.m. ... with three more fun-filled days of activities and fine entertainment to follow.

The cook-off is being held this year in conjunction with the festival, which is being sponsored by the NC Turkey Festival, Inc. and the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Five contestants from across North Carolina have been selected to participate in the finals and will prepare their turkey dishes "live" at the festival during the morning of September 18.

Judging of the contest by a panel of expert food specialists will come later in the day.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$500 and the four runners-up will share an additional \$550 in prize money.

The Turkey Cooking Contest is sponsored by the North Carolina Turkey Federation, the NC Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Poultry Federation.

A schedule of Events for the four-day festival in Raeford will include a turkey seminar with Pawleys Island Inn chef and owner Louis Osteen, the

cooking contest and the First Annual Turkey Parade to be held on the Main Street of Raeford.

A turkey dinner, turkey square dance, turkey shoot, tennis, bridge and golf are also among the fun-filled activities planned for the festival.

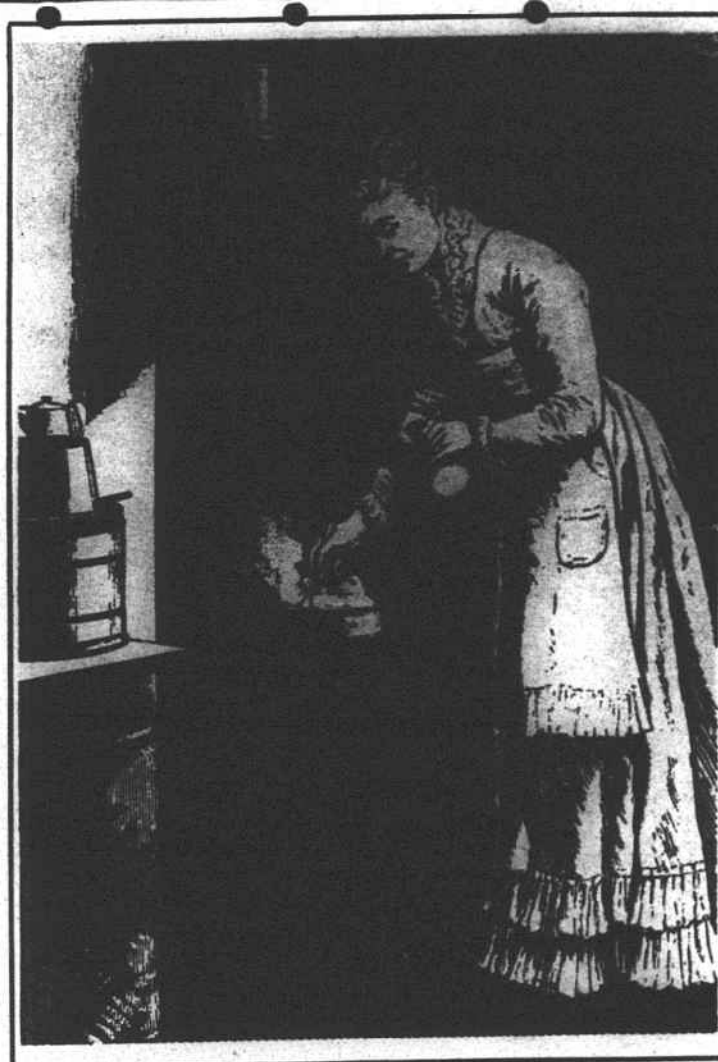
In addition, the festival will include top-rate entertainment provided by the Embers, Touchstone and Nantucket.

Sonny Faison, Carroll's of Warsaw, President of the North Carolina Turkey Federation, noted that the turkey cook-off and festival could be one of the turkey industry's largest affairs ever held in the state.

The event is expected to draw thousands to the Raeford/Hoke County area. "This is a great way to expose our industry to consumers and to help honor our NC turkey producers," Faison said.

Ed Woodhouse, Executive Director of the North Carolina Poultry Federation, noted that North Carolina is the "turkey capital of the nation" and in 1985 should produce over 30 million turkeys. "We are the largest turkey producing state in America and the turkey segment is a vital part of our total billion dollar poultry food industry in North Carolina," Woodhouse said.

Last year the poultry food industry for the first time in North Carolina history became a billion dollar agriculture industry and exceeded tobacco as the state's top farm income producer, Woodhouse noted.



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