



# Turkey has image problem

by Bob Cairns

The next time someone calls you a turkey you may want to consider the comment a compliment.

The wild turkey stalked by the pilgrims on that first Thanksgiving Day is still one of the smartest birds in America.

The domestic turkey that graces our holiday table seems to be the culprit causing the bird's low-IQ image.

But according to Charles Brewer, a North Carolina State University assistant professor of poultry science, man's efforts to produce an outstanding meat product have changed the bird in a way that masks its native intelligence. Brewer assists the state's turkey industry in formulating diets for the birds and carries out turkey-related research at NCSU.

In 1981 North Carolina became for the first time the

number one turkey-producing state in the country with revenues exceeding \$183 million.

"Pound for pound the broad-breasted commercial turkey is a smart as his wild relative," Brewer said. "Because of its excessive weight (males 25-30 pounds, females 15-20 pounds) the domestic turkey can neither fly nor reproduce naturally and must be artificially inseminated. But these limitations shouldn't be misinterpreted as having a bearing on the bird's intelligence."

Because the wild turkey is mobile and has adapted well in the forest it has a reputation of being a much more cunning animal with a keener mind, he said.

"The wild birds are extremely intelligent, and tests have substantiated that like the squirrel, they have the ability to keep a tree between

themselves and a hunter and use this shield to move through the woods until they find safe shelter," he noted. But given the same amount of time and experience in the wild, these wily ways would be exhibited by the domestic birds as well, Brewer said.

Studies at NCSU have shown that if wild young turkeys raised in captivity are released and allowed to live in the woods, it takes them three to four years to become re-established in that environment. "Given the chance, the domestic bird could establish itself there almost as quickly," he said.

Curiosity has long been considered a sign of intelligence, and Brewer says the domestic turkey shows an interest in everything it confronts—from a new feeding dish to an old felt hat. "If a farmer throws his hat into a

turkey pen, the birds will flock around, observing, assessing, all the while making a curious clucking sound," he said.

Brewer is quick to refute the old story that turkeys don't have sense enough to come in out of the rain. "This business about turkeys caught in the rain holding their heads up and drinking until they drown is pure myth," he stated. "Like any bird, the turkey isn't supposed to get wet. In instances when turkeys have died, they were being range-raised with little or no protection, got soaked to the skin, the temperature dropped and they froze to death."

In an NCSU research project designed to reduce the cost of turkey feed by cutting the percentage of protein, Brewer saw more evidence of the domestic turkey's intelligence. "When the protein dipped to an unacceptable level, the birds began to eat their own

protein-rich feathers to acquire their nutritional needs," he said.

According to the NCSU poultry professor, the turkey even makes a pretty acceptable pet.

"If no other turkeys are around, the domestic bird will do just fine," he said. "They can be trained to come when they're called, and often can be taught to follow their owners around like a dog."

The domestic turkeys with their made-to-order broad-breasts waddle around like a man with an accelerated case of middle-age spread, but according to Brewer most athletes would do well to have the birds' physical makeup.

"On the average human, body weight is eight to 10 percent fat," Brewer said. "The turkey—which is over one third breast—has less than one percent body fat."

Because of its low-fat meat,

its high nutritional value and its economical price per pound, turkey is one of the best meat buys in America, he added.

"They can be bought in parts, as breasts, in rolls, in turkey-ham loafs and as whole birds," he noted. "In the past year a new frankfurter product made with turkey and chicken was introduced and gained more than 10 percent of the country's hot dog market."

This holiday season will mark a milestone in turkey pricing, with costs lower than they've been in more than 15 years, Brewer said.

So this Thanksgiving the turkey can hold his head up proudly. He's not only a great deal smarter than he's cracked up to be; but also—with skyrocketing prices and the growth of inflation—the bird is rapidly becoming man's best friend.

They can be trained to come when they're called, and often can be taught to follow their owners like a dog.'

## Roads to be repaired

by Ed Weber

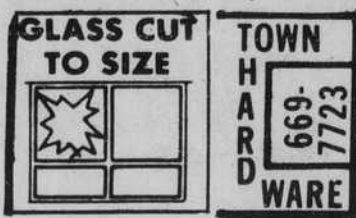
In discussion with the Chamber of Commerce, Earl McEntire, district supervisor for Department of Transportation, agreed that steps would be taken to "smooth over" the rough crossing of Southern Railroad tracks on highway No. 9. Also the condition of Broadway, between State street and the R.R. crossing was discussed with a view of

repairing it when funds become available in early spring.

George Venturella, chairman of the Sourwood Festival, has announced that the 1982 festival will be held August 4-7. The emphasis this year will be on full participation in events, shows, sports, etc. by the people, clubs, organizations and industries in the valley. Anyone with ideas and plans should call 669-2300 or

669-8081.

The Chamber welcomes its newest members, The Seven Sisters and the Black-Eyed Susan, both on Cherry Street.



## Operation Santa under way

Operation Santa Claus is under way at the Marjorie McCune Center for the Handicapped. Unwrapped gifts will be accepted through Dec. 14 to be given to residents at Christmas.

Suggested items include: toothpaste and brushes, cosmetics, larger size dresses and slips, panties, socks, comb and brush sets, coloring books, ties, handkerchiefs, after

shave lotion, men's underwear, postage stamps, toboggan caps, bicycles, records, record player, icecream freezer, tape players, tapes and roller skates. The items must be new, not used. Attach your name and address so the gifts can be acknowledged.

For more information, call Irene Stephenson, director of volunteer services at the center, 669-8452.

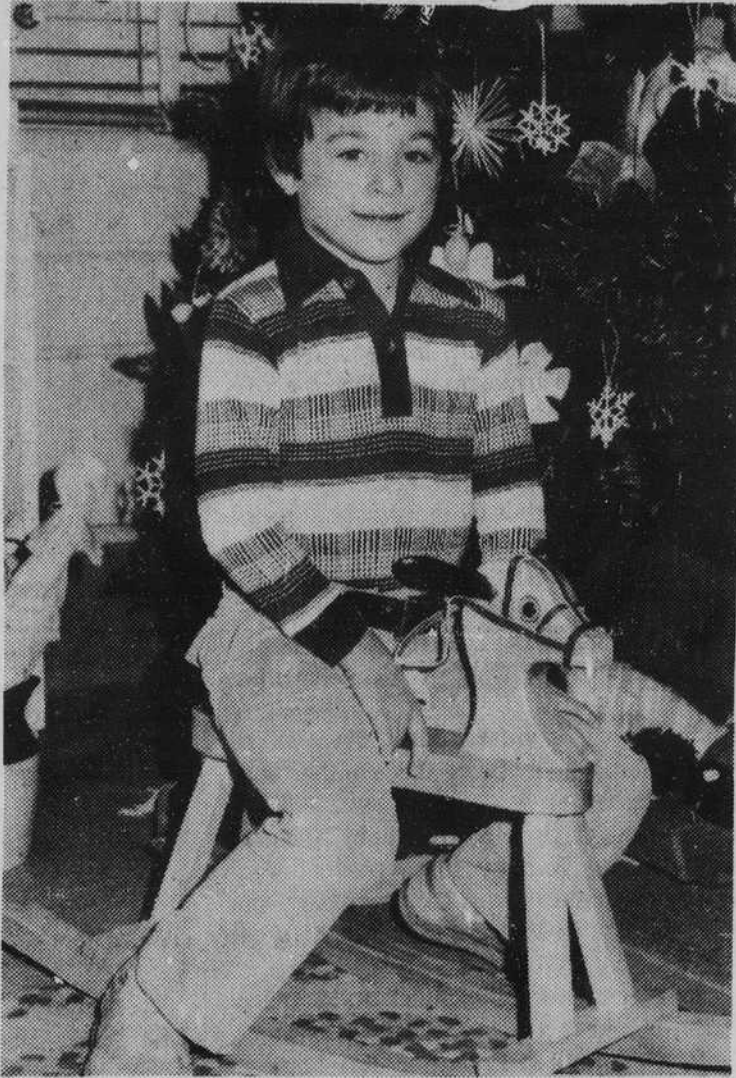
## Depot report

### Rocking horse makes fine gift

by Priscilla Hopkins

"Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross,  
Cross,  
To see what Tommy can buy,  
A penny white loaf,  
A penny white cake,  
And a two penny apple pie."

Any child lucky enough to get a rocking horse made by Sam McElrath for Christmas this year can ride anywhere his imagination can take him. In addition to the rocking horses he makes to sell at the Old Depot are North Carolina



Chris Tolley is riding to Banbury Cross. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tolley. He attends kindergarten at Swannanoa Primary.

fairs, Sam makes other delightful toys such as stick horses, jumping monkeys, gee-haw whimmy diddles and rocking chairs. For adults he makes white oak split gizzard baskets, note holders, churns, owls and footstools.

Sam is self-taught and unlike many of the Old Depot exhibitors, his craft items are his vocation. He works chiefly in pine. He has been appearing at fairs for eight years and began exhibiting at the Old Depot two years ago. He lives with his family in Buckeye Cove.

A week from this Saturday, Nov. 28, the Log Cabin pattern double bed quilt and matching pillow will be raffled off at 4:30 p.m. in the Depot. The winner need not be present to win. Each chance costs just \$1. Proceeds will go to support educational projects of the Old Depot Association in the Valley. Both quilt and pillow are on display in the showcase of the Gallery.

The annual Christmas open house will be held on Friday, Dec. 11 from 6-9 p.m. Mountain toys will be used in decorating for the party. Refreshments will be served. Entertainment will be provided by Diane, Mose and Christy Henry. Plan to drop in and have some fun with friends.

If you have boxes that you do not need, the Depot could use them. The Depot is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

CLASSES: There will be no more classes in 1981, but there will be classes in basket-making and broom-making offered in March of 1982 before the Gallery re-opens on April 1. If you are interested and would like to be contacted in early March when the day and time of each of these classes is set, please contact Edie Jackson or Lillian Reynolds now at 669-6583.

The Old Depot Gallery will be open through Dec. 24.

# FAMILY DOLLAR

For More Under Your Christmas Tree

**\$10**

**6 Foot Artificial Christmas Tree**

Easy to assemble scotch pine Complete with stand. 4-Ft. Christmas Tree 7.99

Accessories For The Tree

- 3" x 12" Garland.....3/11
- 8-Ct./12-Ct. Glass Ornaments.....1.59
- 11 Lite Star Tree Top.....2.99
- 50 Lite Set.....3.99

**\$2**

**Ladies' Tee Tops**

100% cotton tee with cap sleeves and scoop neck. Fashion colors. S,M,L.

**588** Pair

**Fashion Jeans**

With contrast stitching and color piping on back pockets. 5/6-15/16 & 10-18.

**\$5** Each

**Men's Western Shirts**

Woven plaid shirts with front and back yoke. Snap front, cuffs and pockets. S,M,L,XL.

**588** Pair

**Men's Western Denim Jeans**

5-pocket cotton denim jeans with slight flare leg. Sizes 28-38.

**588** Pair

**Joggers For The Family**

Choose from assorted styles of canvas court shoes and nylon or suede joggers in sizes to fit the whole family.



## Open Thanksgiving Day 1-6 p.m.

**1.99**

**Dixie Charger Die Cast Set**

Set of 3 die cast miniatures with wheels.

**7.99**

**Thundervette**

Battery operated remote control car with motor sound.

**9.99**

**Daredevil 500**

Includes 3 stunt cars and "whip action" track with speed loop.



**84¢** Qt.

**Quaker State Super Blend** Premium quality 10W30 motor oil. Limit 5 quarts.



**59¢** Light Bulbs

Pack of 2 60, 75 or 100 watt Sylvania inside frost light bulbs.



**77¢** Plates Or Cups

25-ct. Hefty foam plates or 20-ct. 10-oz. tumblers.



**\$1** Holiday Trash Bags

Choose from 15-ct. 44-gal. bags, 12-ct. 20-gal. bags or 9-ct. 30-gal. bags.



**\$5** 21 Piece Socket Set

1/4" and 3/8" ratchet socket set. Rustproof. Plastic carrying set.



**2.88** Ea. Pc. Men's Thermal Underwear

Men's warm and comfortable poly/cotton thermal underwear. S,M,L,XL.



**55¢** Ultra Brite Toothpaste

For 1.3-oz. Ultra Brite for whiter teeth Pro Toothbrushes.....2/11



**2\$1** Lander Products

Choice of 12-oz. shampoo and rinses or 16-oz. lotion.



**\$1** Nail Polish Remover

4-oz. Beautiful Nails polish remover. Dip nail in and it removes polish.

**MOTORCRAFT OIL and OIL FILTER SPECIAL**

Includes up to 5 quarts of Motorcraft oil, Motorcraft oil filter and installation.

**FREE LUBE with Oil & Oil Filter Special**

**TOTAL SPECIAL PRICE—PARTS and LABOR**

**\$15.50**

Any applicable taxes extra

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White Kerosene **669-9854**

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Mon. - Sat. 9-9 Sun. 1-6