

# Everyone has a turkey story...

Okay, it's Thanksgiving, and what's the most popular topic of the weekend?

Right! It's turkey!

Every year when Thanksgiving approaches, everyone seems to have a turkey story, and my colleagues are no exception.

One co-worker told her turkey story about how her mom's oven died half way through the cooking ritual, and her aunt had to come to the rescue, taking the half-cooked bird over to her house to complete the task, transforming the festive fowl from the white-skinned wonder it once was, into the steaming golden brown beauty to grace the family dinner table.

"But it wasn't the same," she said, "You know, the best part of having a turkey dinner is having it cooked in the house, so you can smell it."

I guess she felt robbed by the fact she didn't have that wondrous smell tantalizing her olfactory senses.

Another colleague told me how his brother-in-law (who lives on a farm) usually brings the turkey for Thanksgiving.

"But just yesterday, as we talked on the phone, he said there might be a problem with supplying the bird this year," he explained, "Since he said it was just running past the window as we spoke."

Then there was my own family's turkey story, compliments of my dad.

He would tell the story about the year they had a turkey that was so big it had to be moved by a front end loader, and they cooked one leg at a time, since it was simply too big to fit in the oven.

My mother would embellish the story as well, adding how many loaves of bread it took to create the stuffing, and all the other sordid details surrounding the 'big turkey.'

I think the worst part was that my sisters and I actually believed them.

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Ted Brown

Even at the office we had a turkey story. It happened the year I decided I'd go after a picture of a turkey for the front page of our Thanksgiving issue of the newspaper.

One of my co-workers had relatives who apparently raised those gobblers, and I was to meet with them for the photo session.

Of course, when I got there, I discovered they didn't have turkeys... instead, they had chickens— white chickens.

I had a field day with that one when I returned from that assignment. I suggested (with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek) I could take a shot of someone chopping the head off a chicken, and just say it was a turkey, since once the head is gone, no one would really know the difference.

After all, just like turkeys, chickens have white feathers too...

For some reason, my editor felt it might be deemed inappropriate by the readers.

"But think of it," I protested. "It would make great color! And terrific action!"

I seem to recall him walking away, shaking his head while mumbling something about me needing counselling.

As we sit down at the Thanksgiving table this weekend, with a platter of steaming hot turkey in front of us, we should savor the moment and inhale that wonderful smell. And be thankful.

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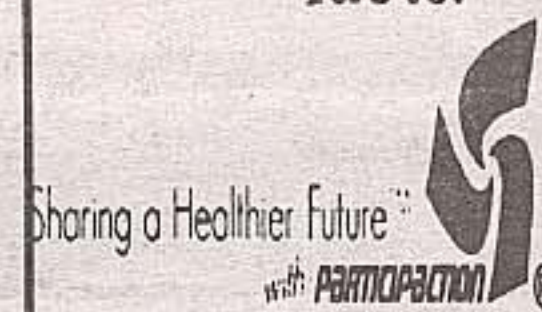
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