



## TOO LONG IN THE SUN

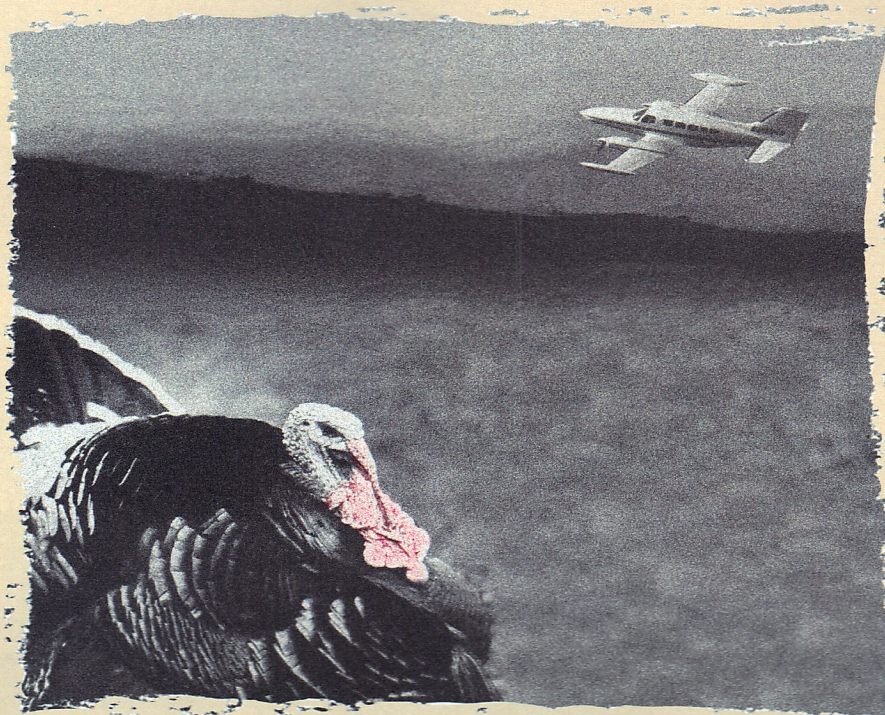


Photo illustration by Donna Bollich

### GETTYSBURG'S TURKEY DROP

*Condensed from a true story by Terry Williams*

**T**HE JUNIOR CHAMBER of Commerce at Gettysburg once held an annual Farmer's Appreciation Day to let us know how much they loved us. They had a free dinner and all the store clerks wore funny clothes.

One year, as an added fillip, they added a turkey drop. It was a gimmick thought up in another place in the late '40s. Merchants took a hundred ping pong balls, put special marks on six, and dropped them all over town. The finders of the six got free turkeys.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce heard about the turkey drop, but not about the ping pong balls. Their advertisement read "Catch your Easter Turkey!"

Turkeys don't fly very well. When the earnest young men pushed six of them out of a light plane 3,000 feet above main street, the birds knew they were in trouble. They accepted their fate with great dignity. They folded their wings and dropped straight down on the crowd.

One hit the roof of the bank. Five hit the pavement with enormous splats.

Fortunately no one was hurt. One matron was standing a few feet from the second turkey to land and her southwest exposure was instantly and generously covered with blood and fowl guts.

She was able to contain her glee better than me. In fact, I thought the day a complete success — the town cats and I. Later, I suggested that the Chamber provide the farmers with an Easter dinner ham. After all, hogs fly about as well as turkeys.

*About the author — Terry Williams, now deceased, was a longtime Gettysburg area farmer with a keen sense of humor.*