PARK COUNTY

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Elva R. Howard, Res. Fed. Wkr.
Livingston, Montana

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Subject..... America Eats
Source..... Mrs. J.J.Kelly and daughter Eleanore Kelly, Livingston, Montana.

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER, GIVEN BY THE LADIES OF THE PARISH, LIVINGSTON, MONTANA:

An event which has become one of the leading affairs of the year, as well as one of the most popular, is the annual Turkey Dinner and Bazaar given by the Ladies of the Parish of the St. Mary's Catholic Church. These women have proved their qualifications in carrying out well organized rules and regulations, and their executive ability is portrayed in the results.

This two-day event takes place some time during October,--something perhaps after the fashion of an old fashioned Harvest Festival. It is made gay and happy by the interest shown by young and old, and a helpful hand is given not only by the members of the Catholic Church, but through courtesy and actual help extended by local people in general. One bakery donates the use of its kitchen because of the huge ovens needed to bake the twenty-five turkeys necessary for the dinner, and also the 250 pies used for the dinner. Three men, citizens of the community, volunteer their services for supervision of the games for the evening entertainment; Bingo and Spinno games are among the leading games for elders, with alluring prizes.

The Church Choir members arrange and supervise an attractive candy booth, while the ladies of the Church supervise entertainment for the children, where the fish-pond, surprise package, and hamburger stand are attractive.

This affair is conducted in the Church Parish Hall. When the doors are opened for the dinner, a cashier sits at the entry where tickets are purchased, including two prize tickets for the lucky one. Several pretty girls attractively dressed in proper costumes are also present

to act as ushers and hat-check girls. Their charming manners win many a nice tip, which help to increase the sum forthcoming for church use.

The preparation and serving of the dinner is, however, the real work, when hundreds of people partake of the meal. The planning has been going on for some time before in the thoughts of the women of the Parish. And about two weeks before the dinner and bazaar is given, the head of the organization appoints her committees, with one woman appointed as head of each committee. These committees consist first of a group known as the financial, kitchen, dining room, baking, and dish-washing committees. Eash woman appointed head of a committee in turn chooses her helpers; thus a well organized line of workers is available, each carrying out cheerfully the work as assigned. One happy, willing group of workers is the Italian women who cheerfully volunteer to do the dish washing, and do they shine!

The turkeys are prepared accompanied by the excellent dressing which merits special attention because of its unusually delectable ingredients. They are then taken to the local bakery for the long hours of roasting. The number usually used is twenty-five. The baker with the help of local men, give their time to basting, turning, and browning these fowls.

When serving time arrives, two or three local men chefs do the carving in the Parish Hall Kitchen. Long tables in the dining room have already been set up with silver ready for the plate service of the turkey dinner, followed by coffee and the dessert of pumpkin and apple pie.

The evening event consists in taking part in games and other entertainment, as well as sale of bazaar articles.

This year, October, 1941, the proceed amounted to $1400.00 for Church funds. Father Sheehy is Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Livingston, Montana.