

m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

## Cooking over the wires to Alaska

I won't bet on it, but I won't be too surprised to get a telephone call about the time the parades are filling the television screens Thanksgiving morning.

If my premonition pays off, the caller will say something like "Help! Help! What do I do with this white thing to turn it into roast turkey?"

I make the prediction because of a recent conversation over the long-distance lines to Alaska. Our newest bride announced at that point that her in-laws had gone "outside," meaning beyond the borders of Alaska, and her new family was "coming here for Thanksgiving."

NOW I DON'T dook for a minute our daughter's ability to get Thanksgiving dinner on the table, although as I remember it's a pretty

small table and a rather cramped kitchen in that Anchorage apartment. But I've learned over the last few years that cooking instructions and recipes are best transmitted over the phone — they aren't nearly as satisfactory when written on file cards or culled from a recipe book.

The first indication we had that our newbroods were back from their brief honeymoon came when I lifted the receiver and was asked "How do you make pot roast?"

And a friend with children not quite so far away nearly broke up when I mentioned that the same newlywed had called recently for my lasagna recipe. She's been asked for recipes, she allowed, but not in calls from Anchorage.

ACTUALLY, all the daughters now out of the nest have called at one time

or another for ingredients and cooking processes for one specialty or another. Beef stroganoff, fried chicken, shortbread and blueberries are a few of the other bits of home cooking the girls have decided they wanted to fix right away.

And I heard recently about one of our young friends who recently set up housekeeping in St. Louis. He was thinking about serving stuffed pork chops the way his mother did it and called her to check ingredients. She called back with detailed instructions to be sure he'd get it right.

So I await Turkey Day with anticipation not entirely gastronomic. This year I won't be cooking the turkey I eat, but maybe I'll have a long-distance taste of the one served in Alaska.

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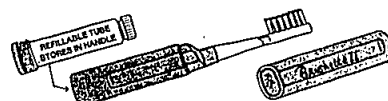
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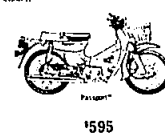
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