

## Will bailouts work? Track record is OK

What does it mean to the American economy when the government has to bail out our largest banks, insurance companies, brokerages and manufacturers? We're in deep trouble this time, of course. That much is obvious.

The taxpayers' bill is past \$1 trillion already, and the meter just keeps on running.

Before this ends, the government may well own a big chunk of Citicorp and other big banks, of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, of insurance giant AIG and of a host of other firms "too big to let go down."

First of all, can this work?

Actually, the government's track record in rescuing big firms is not all that bad, nor has it cost us much money in the end.

When the government bailed out Chrysler Corp. in 1979 with \$1.2 billion in loan guarantees, the effort was at least a qualified success. Chrysler went on to become a relatively stable firm, though not one fated to make its way in the world. It was bought up by the big German automaker Benz, but even the Germans could not make a winner out of the No. 3 U.S. manufacturer.

After being cut loose to fend for itself, Chrysler quickly faltered. The economic nose-dive the U.S. has suffered this year is not something it, or possibly any of the Big Three, could survive.

Call that one at least a temporary success. We got our money back.

When the eastern railroads were broke in the 1970s, the government formed Conrail in 1976 to "rationalize" the system. Armed with authority to cut away unneeded lines and unprofitable passenger trains, the new railroad began to rise. A crack management team made it a winner. Eventually, the two big eastern carriers bought Conrail and divided the spoils.

Had it remained independent, Conrail would have been a real success. As it was, though, the government's goals were met. The rail system was pared back and began to make a profit. Today, the eastern railroads — once a drag on the economy — are a profit-making business.

So call that one a success.

Can the government save GM or Citicorp?

Who knows. Today, the need for cash is so huge, the number of firms in trouble so large, that even Uncle Sugar may run out of cash.

Should we care?

Economists and experts differ. Some say we simply cannot afford to let so many key players fail. If GM goes down, for instance, thousands of suppliers, dealers and other related firms may follow. The entire domestic auto industry may disappear, and with it the country's best remaining industrial jobs.

Others say bankruptcy is the only way to wash years of poor management, union power and bad decisions away. Purists say only the market can decide who lives and who dies.

Yet so far, the record for government bailouts is fairly positive. So pick your medicine. Chances are you'll be paying for it, one way or the other.

— Steve Haynes

## Sound Off

### News is better than expected

Hello to friends and family. Better news than I could have hoped for from my doctor's appointment. The broken bones have healed well! After 8 weeks I am finally out of the hip to ankle compression cast, can put 50 percent weight on the leg, which will enable me to start therapy to strengthen the left leg.

I do still have a pressure ulcer on my left heel from wearing the cast so will have to wear a waffle boot until that heals but it will be much smaller and less cumbersome by far. Thank you all for your cards, letters, calls and prayers. I shall truly have a Thanksgiving on Thursday! And maybe — if therapy goes well — be back to The Carlyle by Christmas . . . or thereabouts, I hope.

Praise the Lord with me for He is good and His mercy endureth forever.

Liza Deines  
Columnist

## OpinionLine: 877-6908

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Office hours:  
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (785) 877-3361  
Fax: (785) 877-3732  
E-mail:  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

#### STAFF

Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher  
Christie Anderson ..... advertising director  
Dana Paxton ..... advertising  
Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports  
Brandy Leroux ..... reporter  
Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson ..... computer production



## It's always fun when the family's together

After 13 hours on the road for our return trip from Dallas, we have about decided to make it a two day event. In the not-too-recent past, we never took more than 10 hours to make the trek. Now, we take longer and more frequent breaks.

The drive down and back — a couple hundred dollars: a few days with our kids and grandkids — priceless. It never fails, my kids and grandkids can make me laugh so hard, I cry. Someone was always saying, "Breathe, Grandma. Breathe." We play board games into the wee hours. To say they are "spirited" is a gross understatement. It's a wonder the neighbors didn't call police. We played "Taboo", "Boggle" and "Whonoo". Each one tons of fun.

-ob-

Remember last week when I told you I had prepared some things ahead for Thanksgiving dinner? Let's just say I'm really prepared for Christmas, because we walked out the door without packing two of the items in the car. The ground and sugared cranberries are still in the freezer along with the bread braid I had wanted to take. Nobody noticed, though. My daughter, Kara, had frozen cranberries and I ground them using her mini-food processor.

Kara and her husband, Adam, had invited a young couple and their little boy, Parker, to join us for dinner and Stephanie brought a spiral-cut ham, cheesy potatoes and a corn-cornbread casserole. If anyone left hungry, it was their own fault.

Except for a difference of opinion between Jim and me about whether or

## Out Back Carolyn Plotts



not to put the turkey's liver in the gravy, everything went off without a hitch.

He insisted that his mother and grandmother ALWAYS put the liver in the gravy and I contend that nobody in their right mind would put liver in gravy. Gizzards, heart and neck meat — yes. But, liver in turkey gravy? You've got to be kidding.

-ob-

The kids introduced me to YouTube. I had heard of it. In fact, people have even sent me YouTube clips. But, I had never "surfed" through the thousands, maybe millions, of YouTube offerings.

Kara showed me one that we played over and over and made everyone else watch it, too. If you have ever had a manicure done in a major city mall, you must see the one titled, "Nail Salon."

Now, be careful, because there are some objectionable sites, and never, I repeat never, let your children surf YouTube without supervision. The internet is a wonderful piece of technology, but it is loaded with "landmines."

-ob-

Jim was incubating a cough and chest congestion before we left for Texas. It became full-blown while we were there and he spent his nights, upright in a recliner.

If he laid down, the coughing would start. But, he did manage to rest some and slept a lot on the trip home. He's back at work today and, hopefully, feeling better.

-ob-

On the way home we stopped at a nationally known discount store to print the pictures we had taken during the week. I plugged the "stick" from my digital camera into the store's do-it-yourself printer and hit "print all" without previewing. When they emerged from the printer, who do you think was the featured subject? Two-year old Ani was included in almost every shot. Jim would look at me and ask, "Isn't she absolutely the cutest thing you've ever seen?"

And, I would agree, she is. Although I have to add that all our grandchildren are adorable. But, the "baby" always gets the attention. She knows how old she is; how to say "Please" and "Thank you", "Mommy" and "Sissy", plus dozens of other words her mother has to translate for us. And, we taught Ani how to say she is, "So big."

Our oldest granddaughter, Angelia, was able to be with us. She has joined Job Corps and is well on her way to becoming a licensed practical nurse. We are very proud of her.

-ob-

It was a great holiday. We were happy to be there and happy to be home, too. We're beginning to think that a month or so in Texas during the winter might not be such a bad idea. That's a few years away, but one we want the kids to start thinking about. It might take them that long to get used to it.

## Here's why it's called 'Turkey Day'

### Insight John Schlageck

How did the turkey reserve its place on our traditional Thanksgiving table? That bird is what the pilgrims, our forefathers, feasted upon according to fact and fable. You've all heard how our ancestors hunted this bird. But here is the real story — the turkey scoop.

Seems our forefathers remembered to take their muskets that day, but forgot to take their ammunition. As the men marched toward the woods, they took one addition, an Indian scout.

You guessed it. To take the scout along was tradition. Besides, the pilgrims needed someone who knew where the turkeys were.

As the story played out, the great white hunters spotted an elk. It was a fine animal for a Thanksgiving feast. It sported a trophy rack no doubt.

Several hunters took aim, pulled back their triggers and clicked. They soon discovered their muskets had no shot.

This realization made them sick to their stomachs.

What would they do?  
What would they have for their Thanksgiving feast?

On what would they sup that night?  
One wise, or unwise lad suggested stewing their shoes.

"I'll gobble them up," he said.

Well, the rest of the hunting party was in no mood for jokes. One of the hunters threw the lad's musket into the field just as an old Tom turkey — who had heard the gobble — popped up his head.

The critter's fate was sealed. What

senses he had were knocked out that day. The turkey was plucked, stuffed and roasted.

In exchange for his silence, the scout was invited to eat while the hunters boasted and embellished the story about the day's hunt.

They truthfully said, "We didn't fire a shot."

Those early-day hunters had no need for ammunition. That's why today turkeys are raised on farms — to shoot them would break with tradition.

On a more historical note, Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is a traditional North American holiday, which is a form of harvest festival.

Although this feast is considered by many to be the very first Thanksgiving celebration, it was actually in keeping with a long tradition of celebrating the harvest and giving thanks for a successful bounty of crops.

The date and location of the first Thanksgiving celebration is a topic of discussion, though the earliest attested Thanksgiving celebration was on Sept. 8, 1565 in what is now Saint Augustine, Florida. Despite research to the contrary, the traditional "first Thanksgiving" is venerated as having occurred at the site of Plymouth Plantation, in 1621.

What foods topped the table at the first

harvest feast?

Historians aren't completely certain about the full bounty, but it's safe to say the pilgrims weren't gobbling up pumpkin pie or playing with their mashed potatoes. It's a relatively safe bet that the only two items on the menu for sure were venison and wild fowl.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States

Thanksgiving dinner is done in the evening, usually as a gathering of friends and/or family. At this time you say all your thanks and wishes.

In our country, certain kinds of food are traditionally served at Thanksgiving meals. First and foremost, baked or roasted turkey is usually the featured item on any Thanksgiving feast table (so much so that Thanksgiving is sometimes referred to as "Turkey Day"). Stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, other fall vegetables, and pumpkin pie are commonly associated with Thanksgiving dinner.

All of these primary dishes are actually native to the Americas or were introduced as a new food source to the Europeans when they arrived.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and don't forget to count your blessings.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)