



# The Turkey Bowl Newsletter

A Publication of the  
Turkey Bowl Committee

## Thanks for

- > Bruce & Cindy organizing & making the arrangements, etc.
- > Beth & Sid for bringing food, accessories and for cooking lunch and breakfast.
- > Everyone else who brought food and helped cook and brought BINGO prizes.
- > Marty for providing photos.
- > All who come and keep the traditions going.

## Turkey Bowl XXXVIII—Youngs Topple Silvers 26-8

By Bill Nicolls

The day was bright, the temperature was bearable, and the field was in fine shape for the continuation of this long-standing sports extravaganza known as the Turkey Bowl. The Silver Bucks could only muster 6 members for the gridiron on this day as "Father Time" has been less than gentle to these old warhorses. They were proudly sponsored by the AARP and Kimberly/Clark, makers of Depends. The Young Bucks matched their best 6 players on the other side of the scrimmage line and were sponsored by Red Bull. The traditional 2-headed coin was tossed and the Silvers elected to receive.

The Youngs kicked off and as usual, "Jammin'" Jake Grover boomed it way over the end zone. No sooner than you can say "Bob's your uncle", "Bruisin'" Bob Nicolls threw an interception into the waiting arms of "Tornado" Tyler Mack. The stunned Silvers could only watch as Jammin' Jake connected with "Tornado" Ty for the game's first touchdown. Youngs up, 6-0. The Silvers had another 5 and out with Jake intercepting a "Hail Mary" pass on that fifth down. The Silvers forced a 5 and out on the Youngs in the next set of downs with Cody "Bear" Grover dropping a pass at the 30 yd line on fifth down. With the Silvers desperately trying to muster some sort of offense in the early going, they were slapped down yet again with the second turnover of the game; another interception by

Jake. Once more, the Youngs returned to their winning formula of a Jake-bomb to "Twinkletoes" Tyler for another TD. But WAIT! There was an immediate controversy over that call by the line judge. The Silvers used their usual powers of financial persuasion to get the Commissioner to change the ruling. No matter. Jake ran it in for a TD. Youngs up 12 - 0. Silvers once again experienced frustration as Jake-of-all-trades snatched up his third interception of the day. Fortunately, the Silvers held their ground on this set of downs as Tyler, on fifth down, was run out of bounds just 5 yards shy of the endzone. Now the Silvers began to show their mettle. They actually made it halfway down the field before punting. Jake made a brilliant run, scampering all the way to the 1 yard line and then threw a short TD pass to "Jumpin'" Joel Bundy. This made the Silvers gassed, gassed, gassed. Youngs ahead 18 - 0. The Silvers had one last chance to put a crooked number on the scoreboard before halftime and Bruisin' Bob showed some life with a 30 yard run. Unfortunately, on fourth and fifth downs, Bob was almost intercepted again by that Jake-of-Many-Grabs Grover.

Halftime arrived none too soon for the wheezing Silvers who limped off to find libation and lick their wounds. After witnessing the carnage of the first half, veteran star of the Silvers, "Granddaddy"

Greg Bundy came out of retirement to suit up and breathe some life into his fading team. Not to be outnumbered, the Youngs recruited Hillary "Doc" Wildt to suit up with what seemed to be the express purpose of putting "Wild Bill" Nicolls on his keister. "Ski'lan had a couple nice runs for the Silvers that took the ball about 50 yards but looked to the sidelines for a ventilator to catch his breath. Once again, the Silvers failed to light up the scoreboard. On the Youngs next possession, Jake threw a pass on first down that found Tyler downfield who swiftly outmaneuvered the huffing, puffing defenders for another TD. The extra point throw to Cody was successful. Youngs now trouncing the Silvers 26 - 0. At this point Bob rallied his troops for a march to the red zone. Mixing effective passes along with making a good gain on a quarterback keeper, Bob lobbed a pass to "Grandpa" Greg in the end zone. The Silvers surprised the Youngs by handing the ball off to promising new rookie "Cobra" Ky who ran the ball in for a two pointer. Youngs still in command but showing a dent in their armor; up 26 - 8. The Youngs tried to answer that score with yet another of their own with Jake using his arm and legs to chew up yardage. However, "Battlin'" Bob intercepted Jake's pass intended for Hillary in the end zone. Turnabout is fair play after having Jake snag three picks off of Bob earlier.

*(Continued on page 2)*



**A Mack Attack!**

## Silvers Run for Success



2022 Turkey Bowl XXXVIII  
Team Photo

In the Trenches!



**“The commissioner awarded Tyler Mack the Player of the Game Award.”**

*(Continued from page 1)*  
Now it seemed that the Silvers were stoked for the comeback of the century. Bob threw passes downfield to Greg, Jonathan “Honey” Wildt, and Ian, but the momentum died in the red zone. The Youngs were now just coasting with the game clock winding down. In a trick play, Tyler passed to Hillary for a short gain. Jake got behind center once more and threw a bomb to Tyler who caught it out of bounds at the 10 yard line

on fifth down. The Silvers had one last gasp attempt to be respectable. They began their drive when the ref declared the game was over. The Silvers appealed to the commissioner to finish their drive, which was granted, only to float a pass into the waiting arms of the Young Buck Tyler to end the game. Final score: Young Bucks 26 – Silver Bucks 8. The commissioner awarded Tyler Mack the Player of the Game Award. As of this writing, there has been some speculation

floating about that this lopsided victory could have very well been possible by illegal chicanery. It has been purported that the Youngs may have used their technological know-how to use high-powered listening devices to hear huddle-planning by the Silvers. They always seemed to know exactly where Bob was going to throw and what running play was going to be utilized. A full investigation will be demanded to stanch any shenanigans from this year’s Turkey Bowl.

**2023 Colorado Nicolls Reunion**

By Bob Nicolls



2023 CO Cousins Reunion—the full picture is on page 4.

Colorado Cousin Reunion #8 was held this past August. Like the other 7, it was a success as there were no knock down drag out fights or serious injuries.

This year’s numbers were slightly down, in the mid thirties, owing to young families tending to their kids’ summer activities. Having participated as a kid and later a parent, Kathy and I will go with this story instead of anyone actually not liking to come out to CO.

The reunions now tend to blur together. Hillary made a nice book of the first 6, which helps me distinguish between them. Someday I’ll ask for pics from you all so as to make a larger book. I’ll have to get a little more tech savvy for that.

We’ve now lost the entire generation above us’n “18”s. But, not their memories. Dale is likely going to do some re prints of their stories in the T letter, and of course hosts the CE website. I think it important to refresh

these top of mind from time to time.

Kathy and I were in Naples IT this fall and went up Vesuvius. The guide reminded us that it went off last in 1944. I then told him the story of Uncle Dave being on his ship in the Bay of Naples, and having so much ash fall on it that they had to retire to Malta for several weeks to clean it.

Very sorry we’ll miss TGiving this year. Have fun carrying on a long standing Nicolls tradition.

## Welcome Home

Cindy and I had a busy summer and fall beginning with enjoying Bob and Kathy's hospitality at the cousin reunion, then on to The Tetons for a week, followed by a month in Europe. The last three weeks of the Europe trip were spent mostly in Switzerland. If you have been there, you probably noticed...Switzerland is a place all its own. It all looks like a postcard. Everything is neat, orderly, efficient, and on time. They make those expensive watches and it seems they use them. You can set your watch by the train departures. Always on the dot. Cindy's standards for public restroom cleanliness are quite high, and even the restrooms in public parks met her standards. It seems that not even a pine needle is out of place.

By Bruce Nicolls

So, imagine spending three weeks immersed in this efficient, beautiful perfection and then landing at JFK Airport in New York. Immediately, everything starts to go sideways. First, the luggage conveyor after checking through customs was broken. So they took us up 4 levels to ticketing to check our bags, then back through security to get to our gate. Our flight to Pittsburgh was delayed. Not because we didn't have a plane. It sat there at the gate the entire time. We didn't have a crew. Our gate was at the far end of a concourse and we noticed it seemed to be where airport employees came to hide from working. At any time, there were a half dozen or so sitting among the travelers and keeping a low profile. Eventually, they flew a crew in from

Cleveland and we took off for Pittsburgh. We landed in Pittsburgh at 1:00am. Anticipating a very late arrival after 22 hours of travel, I had booked a room at the Hyatt connected directly to the airport. As we went to check in, we found that suddenly the desk clerk could not make key cards that would open our rooms. The hotel was full and somehow everyone had a key that worked except that last half dozen of us coming off that late flight. After multiple attempts, he called in the maintenance guy who went around and opened our rooms with his master and then we could go to bed. We could never leave the room and return, but we were in. As I climbed into bed, I thought, "Welcome home"!



One guess where this is and it ain't New York.

Nov. 27, 1980, Aunt Betty entertains the crowd by singing "Goofus" along with dance moves. "I was born on a farm in loway..."



'60's when I was in school. I recall that they were in demand for several years, but, as with most things, it finally fizzled out. But that didn't stop Mom from singing the song almost to her dying day."

Mystery solved! Thanks, Gayle.

I may never have heard Aunt Betty sing that song all the way to the end, but it always entertained me. Thanks, Aunt Betty.

## Remember When...

Remember when Aunt Betty used to sing "I was born on a farm out in I-o-way..."? I don't remember the rest because Dad usually cut her off before she got any further. She even had a dance to go with it.

Well, I was listening to Rhythm Sweet and Hot (on WESA.fm) one Saturday evening and was astonished to hear a familiar tune. Turns out, Aunt Betty was singing (or trying to sing, I should say) "Goofus."

"Goofus" was written by Wayne King and his violinist William Harold with lyrics by Gus Kahn. Oddly, when Wayne King and His Orchestra recorded it in November 1930, it was as an instrumental. In the 1930s, it was

By Barb Nicolls

recorded by such greats as Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, Red Nichols & His Five Pennies, and Roy Fox and His Band. But, I would recommend the version by Milton Brown and his Brownies because it's peppy with vocals.

The song had a resurgence in the 1950s and was recorded by Johnny Mercer with Paul Weston and His Orchestra, guitarist Les Paul, and even the legendary Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra. And, Phil Harris's vocal version is said to have sold 1 million copies!

Bizarrely, the Carpenters included it on their 1976 album A Kind of Hush.

If you'd like to hear any of these versions (except the Carpenters'), go to <https://archive.org/search?query=goofus>. At least you can hear them to the end without someone cutting them off.

But that doesn't solve the mystery of why Aunt Betty would break out into a song and dance routine at family gatherings. So, I asked Gayle.

"The 'Goofus' song was the grand finale of a show that my mom and her church lady friends from Brownlee Woods Presbyterian put on for various groups. They had about 10 women who sang, told stories and danced in a 45-minute show. This would have been in the early

### I'm Grateful...

By Marty Bundy

I'm Grateful for Our Family History.

I'm grateful for the Nicolls family who has gathered together all of my life. I'm thankful for my cousins who share the history of our parents and grandparents. I'm grateful to Grandma and Grandpa for inviting us to 26 Delaware Ave and accepting everyone into the Nicolls family. Grandma and

Grandpa held the family together during good times and hard times. I'm thankful to Gayle and Jim for hosting receptions after the cemetery services for my father and mother.

I am grateful to Uncle Don and Aunt Bev for inviting us all to 14 Fairhill Drive and giving us a place to connect with one another. Aunt Bev and Barb cre-

ated delicious food while Uncle Don, Bruce, Dale, Beth and Barb created fun activities year after year. I'm thankful for Bruce, Cindy, Dale, Beth, Sid and Barb for continuing the Thanksgiving Nicolls Reunion at the mansion and for Barb who researches our family history.

I'm grateful to Bob, Kathy, Bobby, Heather, Marieta, Danny, and Hilary who have taken up

the torch by providing a place for us all to gather together and continue our family reunions. Not only are the cousins continuing in friendship, but the next generation has developed family bonds as well.

We're approaching a Nicolls Reunion. And just so there won't be confusion, In our touch-football game We must try to keep tame. So we won't suffer any contusion.



1966 July 4th Nicolls Reunion—"All 31 of us"



THANKSGIVING DAY 1973



1982 Memorial Day Weekend S.E. Nicolls Reunion



2013 Turkey Bowl XXXI Team Photo



2009 Colorado Cousins Reunion (1st one?)



2023 Colorado Cousins Reunion