



The New Year's Dinner – A Holiday Story

By Bette Lou Higgins

It is customary to have pork on New Year's Day. The superstition is that it will bring you good luck all year long.

Mary Tobak was a little girl living in Cleveland in 1923 when her father purchased a suckling pig from a farmer a few days before New Year's Day. Of course, the pig had to be killed so it could be prepared for the New Year's day meal.

But to kill the pig, someone had to CATCH the pig! Down in the basement the chase was on – and for awhile the pig was winning. Mary's father thought he had a firm grasp on the suckling, but somehow it got away from him and began running around the furnace which was in the middle of the basement. Eventually the poor pig collapsed from exhaustion.

Little Mary sat on the basement steps and cried for the poor little suckling pig. It was a long time before she could sit down at the supper table and enjoy a roast pork dinner again!

May your Holidays be Happy and whatever you eat on New Year's day bring you luck and health in the New Year.

This story is based on a letter to the author from Mary Tobak Toth (January 18, 1994). The incident took place at 9316 Manor Ave; Cleveland, Ohio around 1923.

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