

Mike the Headless Chicken

On September 10 1945 a strapping but tender young rooster pecking through the dust of Fruita Colorado. The unsuspecting bird has never looked so delicious as he did that, now famous, day. Clara Olsen was planning on featuring the plump chicken in the evening meal and send husband Lloyd to kill the chicken. Nothing about this task turned out to be routine



Lloyd knew his mother in law would be dining with them and would savor the neck. He positioned his ax precisely, estimating just the right tolerances, to leave a generous neck bone. It was as important to suck-up to you're mother-in-law in the 40's as it is today. A skillful blow was executed and the chicken staggered a round like most freshly terminated poultry.

Then the determined bird shock off the traumatic event and never looked back. he pecked for food and preened his feathers just like the rest of his barnyard buddies

When Olsen found Mike, the next morning, sleeping with his "head" under his wing, he decided that if Mike had that much will too live, he would figure out a way to feed and water him. With an eyedropper Mike was given grain an water. A week into Mike's new life Olsen packed him up and took him two hundred and fifty miles to the University Of Utah In Salt Lake City . It was determined that ax blade had missed the jugular vein and a clot has prevented Mike from bleeding to death.

In the 18 MONTHS that Mike lived as "The Headless Wonder Chicken" he grew from a mere 2 1/2 lbs. to nearly 8 lbs. In an interview, Olsen said Mike was a "robust chicken - a fine specimen of a chicken except for not having a head." Miracle Mike took on a manager, and with the Olsens in tow, set out on a national tour.



Curious sideshow patrons in New York , Atlantic City , Los Angeles , and San Diego lined up to pay 25 cents to see Mike. The "Wonder Chicken" was valued at \$10000 and insured for the same. His fame and fortune would earn him recognition in magazines such as Life and Time. It goes without saying there was a Guinness World Record in all this. While returning from one of these road trips the Olsen's stopped at a motel in the Arizona desert. In the middle of the night Mike began to choke. Unable to find the eyedropper used to clear Mike's open esophagus Miracle Mike passed on.