

## Headless Chickens



How long can a chicken live without its head?

About 2 years, but that's just the one chicken, so far. On 10th September, 1945, a young cockerel/rooster in Fruita, Colorado, had its head chopped off and lived. Incredibly, the axe left the jugular vein intact, and left enough of the brain stem to, apparently, keep the rooster chirping. Mike, as he came to be known, was something of a national celebrity in his time, featuring in Time magazine. His owner, Lloyd Olsen, charged twenty-five cents to see 'Mike the headless wonder chicken' in sideshows across the USA. At the height of his career, Mike was making around \$4,500 a week, and was valued at \$10,000. Mike was fed and watered using an eyedropper, but tragedy struck one night when Mike's owner had left his eyedropper at a previous show. Unable to clear his airways, Mike choked to death.