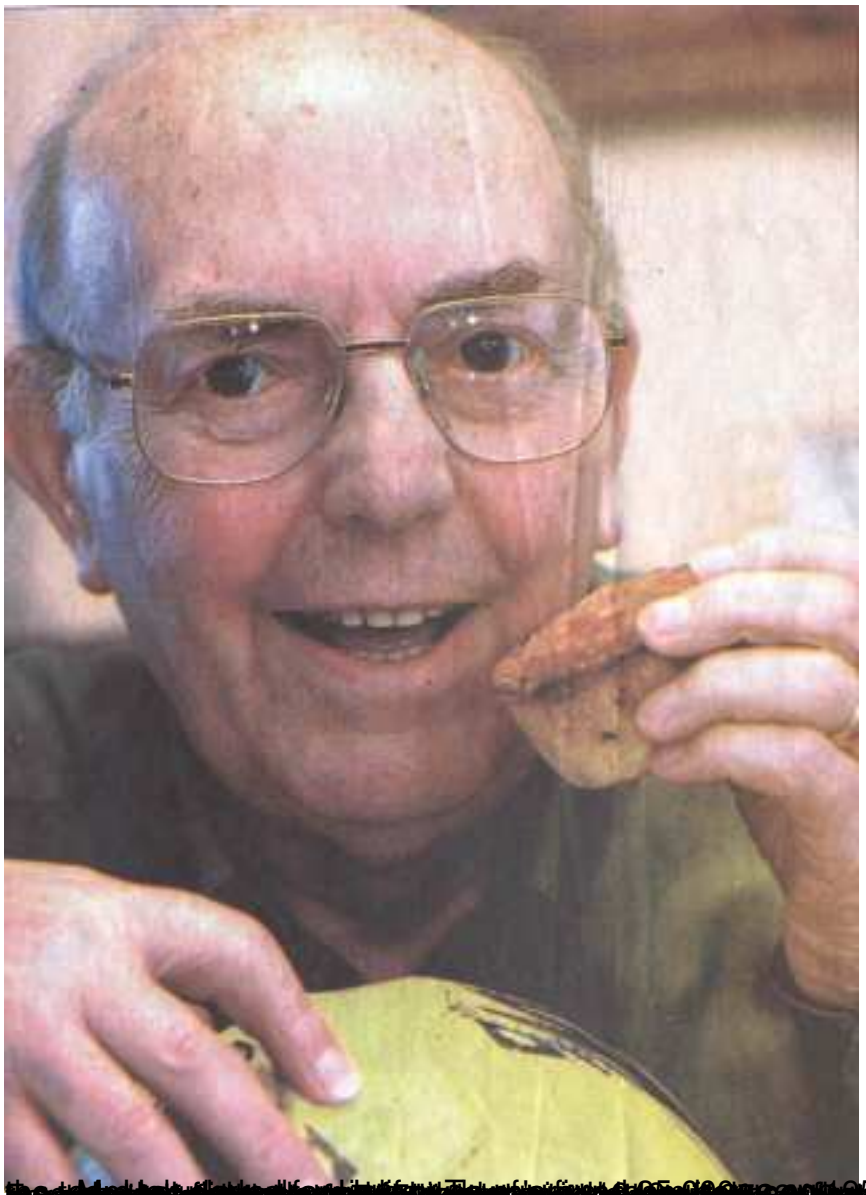
A Former pork pie maker will miss the chance to put his expert taste buds to the test at Calderdale's annual pork pie festival.

Mr George Holt, of Elm Gardens, Halifax, who is also a former Halifax Town footballer is busy recovering from his second hip replace-ment.

The festival will be held at the Old Bridge Inn, Ripponden, on Saturday, March 9.

Mr Holt, who celebrates his 75th birthday today, said he had kept his recipe a secret and still makes pies at home for friends.

"Your first bite into a pie is the real test. You have got to get the pastry right and if the crust is not nice the pie is not going to be." He said he would cele-brate his birthday by having a meal with his wife, Shirley, 60, and daughters Lisa Fisher, 28, and Louise Holt, 24.