

## Date of Easter Explained

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To many the date of Easter is a mystery. It may come anywhere from March 22 to April 25. This latest date was effective only once this century (1943) and at no time will the earlier date entertain this festival. We are told that Christians also used to wander over the calendar, but long ago its date was fixed.

Easter was not originally a Christian celebration. In ancient times the Saxons held annual ceremonies in honor of Ostara, or Eostre, their goddess of spring. In Easter-month, or April, they celebrated nature's resurrection from the death of winter to the joyous life of the vernal season.

**Fixed Date Hope**  
It is hoped that international calendar reforms of the future will fix the date of Easter almost

as definitely as that of Christmas. In 1928, the British parliament passed what was called a "permissive statute" in order to give an impetus to the fixing of Easter. It stated that so as to comply with the "orderly scope of solar measurement of time," this festival should fall on "the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April."

This awaits international agreement.

Long after the time of Jesus, his followers, apparently appreciating the beauty and adaptability of the pagan ceremonies of "resurrection", incorporated revised forms into their own religion. This festival is not mentioned in the original Greek of the New Testament. True, the King James version does translate the word "Pascha" of Acts 12:4 into "Easter", yet in all other places where "Pascha" appears it is correctly translated "Passover."

In the early centuries, violent dissensions arose as to the proper date of Easter. In A.D. 325, Emperor Constantine summoned the Council of Nicea to settle this and other vexatious religious disputes. The Nicæan rule, after due adjustments by the early Alexandrian astronomers and later by Clavius, may be stated thus:

"Easter shall be the first Sunday after the 14th day of the moon on or after March 21."

The "first day of the moon" refers to the new moon. The "14th day", the time of the paschal full moon, usually lacks a little of being as late as the true astronomical full moon. Also, the vernal equinox, when the sun is directly over the earth's equator, may vary slightly from March 21. For the Americans it came this year on March 20. However, in A.D. 325 the equinox occurred on March 21, so the adopted rule made this the "assumed" equinox for future determinations of Easter.

An approximate rule is often stated thus: "Easter comes on the first Sunday after the first full moon or on after the vernal equinox." This works perfectly for most years, for seldom does the full moon occur so near the vernal equinox that distinctions are needed between "paschal full moon" and "astronomical full moon," or between "March 21" and the "true equinox."

The Vatican City's glittering halberdiers, the Swiss Guards, wear 16th century uniforms last altered by Michelangelo.



**TOPS AS SPEAKERS**—Two Medford students took top honors in the recent annual tournament of the Oregon High School Speech League, held at the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. They are Stephen Nye (center, above) who won first place in radio speaking, and Richard Dickenson (right) first in persuasive speaking. Both have been winners of a number of other speech honors during their years at Medford high school. Alfred Cave (left) Grants Pass high school student, won the top award for impromptu and extemporaneous speaking. A total of 152 students from 44 Oregon high schools competed in nine different divisions during the contest, held April 4 and 5.

## Final Illinois Returns Give Taft 49 Delegates

Urbana, Ill.—(U.P.)—Sen Robert A. Taft wound up with 49 out of 50 Illinois Republican convention delegates Saturday when complete official returns from the 22nd Congressional District showed a candidate pledged to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had been defeated.

The official canvasses of the eight counties in the district gave George E. Nichols 32,348 votes, Albert Tuxhorn 24,354, and Dean E. Madden 24,304. Nichols and Tuxhorn are Taft supporters and Madden backed Eisenhower.

Official returns from all but

Champaign County had placed Madden ahead of Tuxhorn by 144 votes. But the canvass in Champaign County wiped out 194 Madden votes, placing him 50 behind Tuxhorn.

Taft thus won all of the 50 delegates elected last Tuesday except one in the 24th District. Henry Schwarz of Belleville, an Eisenhower candidate, was elected from the 24th.

The Ohio Republican senator stands a good chance to pick up 10 more Illinois delegates, who will be elected at the state convention later.

## Chrome Miners Set April 28 Meeting

F. I. Bristol of the Oregon Mining association has received word from Washington, D. C., that some changes will be made in the chrome stock piling program shortly. A meeting of chrome producers, miners and other interested persons has been called for April 28 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in Grants Pass to discuss the matter, Bristol said.

Speakers from the Defense Minerals Procurement administration, G.S.A., and Bureau of Mines, U.S.G.S., will be present. The Oregon state department of Geology and Minerals Industry will be represented and it is hoped the California Division of Mines will be represented, according to Bristol.

Several companies are expected to exhibit machinery the announcement said.

## Services Planned For Roy Nichols

Funeral services for Roy W. Nichols, 70, pioneer resident of the Rogue valley who died at the family home, 1416 Prune street, Saturday, will be held at Perl funeral home Tuesday at 2 p. m. with the Rev. Rolf Hansen of Central Point officiating. Interment will be in Central Point cemetery.

Mr. Nichols, who was born at Sams Valley on Sept. 21, 1881, the son of Edward and Annie Nichols, was an orchardist for many years. His wife, Pearl, died in August, 1951. Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Mary Olive Cook; and two brothers, Charles and George, all of Medford.

On a foggy day in July, 1728, the dour Danish explorer Vitus Bering, whose name was to be given to a sea and a strait, sailed through the narrow passage between Siberia and Alaska. He did not suspect that North America lay a few miles off his beam, says National Geographic Society.

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## Alaskan Minister Called as Pastor By Zion Lutherans

The Rev. G. Herbert Hillerman will become pastor of the Zion Lutheran church of Medford on about June 1, it was announced Saturday. He succeeds Dr. O. W. Ebright, whose call to special work in California was announced recently.

The Rev. Mr. Hillerman has been pastor of Resurrection Lutheran church in Juneau, Alaska, since 1941, and served Gardena and Richmond, Cal., congregations before that. He attended public schools and university in California, and received his degree from Midland college, Fremont, Neb., later graduating from Western Theological seminary with his divinity degree.

**Three Children**  
The new pastor is married and the father of three children.



THE REV. G. H. HILLERMAN  
New Zion Lutheran Pastor

Sunday, April 13, 1952

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

Dale, in high school, and Timothy and Janice, in grammar school.

When the Rev. Mr. Hillerman arrived in Alaska, his church was a mission, with most of the funds furnished by the Board of American Missions, and having only a nominal building fund. During his pastorate the congregation became self-supporting and observed its 25th anniversary by installing a new organ. It has purchased a new lot and has a large fund for the construction of a new church.

**Education Survey**

In 1951, Pastor Hillerman took a six-month leave of absence at the request of Alaska's commissioner of education to survey the school situation in the territory, and the results of his travels and studies are be-

## 'Lewis' Avenue Right City Officials Say

Correct spelling of the name of the avenue at Medford's west city limits is "Lewis," city officials said yesterday.

That is the spelling on the new street signs installed by the city. Old signs on the street designated it as "Louis" avenue and at least one resident said that

ing used to furnish the basis for congressional action on territorial school construction.

A Rotarian, the minister was president and secretary of the Juneau club. He also was chairman during five of his seven years on the Alaska Merit System council.

The huge bronze figure atop the dome of the U. S. Capitol is called the Statue of Freedom.

the name was Louis on his deed. The avenue is listed as "Lewis" on the county plat, city officials reported.

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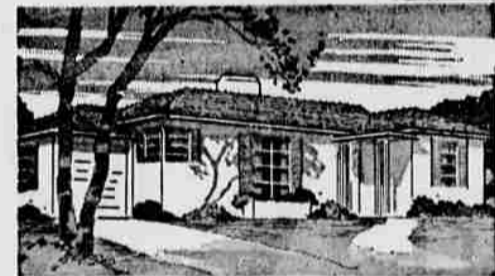
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