

English Easter Name Given From Anglo-Saxon Goddess

By FAY VAN SCHOIACK

"Welcome, Sweet Spring-time. We greet thee in song." These familiar words express a world-wide sentiment. Dating from before the birth of Christ a festival was held each spring in honor of Eostre of Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, to whom Eostur-monath, or a month corresponding to our April, was dedicated. Easter takes its English name from this goddess.

To Christian people, Easter signifies Christ's rising from the dead and the end of the 40 days of Lent. To people living in the northern hemisphere, Easter also heralds the return of sunshine, green grass and blooming flowers.

Easter Customs
Many Easter customs have deep religious meaning while others are merely quaint. A picture or model of the cross, present in every celebration, points out the religious spirit of the day. White lilies surrounding a church altar are symbolic of purity and light.

Why do we color eggs at Easter time? "Someone may be wondering. This custom originated with the Persians who regard the eggs as a sign of new life. According to legend the Easter bunny lays them on Easter Eve.

Subject of Dispute
"When will Easter come this year?" is a question often voiced.

The day for the observance of Easter was long a subject of bitter dispute between Christians of Jewish and those of Gentile descent. The question was finally settled by the Council of Nicaea in 325, when its members unanimously agreed that Easter should always fall on Sunday and on the same Sunday throughout the world. And that each year the exact date of the Easter festival should be calculated at Alexandria and announced to the churches by the bishop of that see.

Alexandria, home of astronomical science in that day, was the logical place to determine the date for this religious celebration, as Easter Day is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, (about Mar. 20) which marks the first day of Spring.

This makes it possible for Easter to occur any Sunday between March 22 and April 25, depending upon the time lapse between the vernal equinox and the first full moon after it. If the moon is full on March 18 or 19, Easter will be very late, as approximately a month must pass before the moon will again reach this phase. A full moon immediately following the vernal equinox will result in an early Easter.

The vernal equinox occurred on March 20 this year and the moon waxed to full on March 26, so Easter Sunday falls on April 1.

"A moving Easter causes inconvenience in all parts of the community. Why not have a fixed date for this festival?" said the representatives from different countries at the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce in Rome in the year 1923. The matter was brought before the League of Nations.

Easter Act
In 1928, England passed the Easter Act, fixing Easter Day as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. This was to go into effect when other nations passed the same law.

However, we are still celebrating Easter upon the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, which has been the custom for 1,631 years.

Debbie Reynolds To Be Mother Next Fall

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Actress Debbie Reynolds, wife of singer Eddie Fisher, is expecting a child next November, her mother says.

Mrs. Maxene Reynolds, the young film star's mother, said yesterday her daughter conveyed the news in a telephone call from New York because of several inquiries about whether she might be expecting a child.

Debbie went to New York to be with Fisher who is working there on television. The actress has just finished the picture, "A Catered Affair." After the film it was stated there was no immediate plans for her return to work.

The couple were married Sept. 26 last year at Grossinger, N.Y., after a long engagement that attracted wide attention.

Anita Ekberg Tells Of Wedding Plans

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Actress Anita Ekberg, bosomy Swedish beauty, has announced her engagement to British actor Anthony Steel.

Steel followed the actress from England to Hollywood. The couple said they have not yet picked a wedding date. They will make their home in Hollywood where her career has skyrocketed in recent months.

Steel met the actress three months ago in London while she was making a picture. The Irish-born actor gave the actress a large emerald engagement ring surrounded by a dozen baguette diamonds.

Polk Offers Voting Machines for Sale

Dallas, Ore. — (U.P.) — Polk county has four voting machines valued at \$1500 each, it wants to sell.

The four machines, bought in 1934, have never been used. Following their purchase the county residents said that the money could have well been used to improve county roads instead of for the purchase of the four voting devices.

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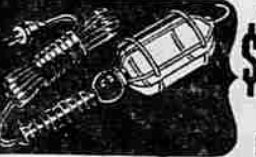
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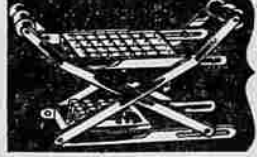
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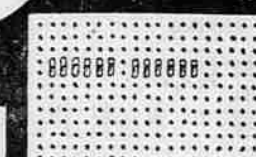
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