

Story and Meaning of Easter

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

The gospel accounts tell the story in four stark words: "and they crucified him."

No elaboration was necessary, at the time the gospels were written, to convey the agony of Jesus' death. Crucifixion was known throughout the Roman world as the most horrible form of execution ever devised. It was slow death by torture.

This form of capital punishment was usually reserved for slaves and insurrectionists. The condemned man was nailed through his hands and feet to a wooden cross, and left to hang there until he died of what modern medical science would describe as a state of shock induced by excruciating pain.

It usually required about 12 hours for a crucified man to die. Cicero records that most of the victims became raving maniacs. It was often necessary, he adds, to cut out their tongues to put a stop to their terrible screams and curses.

Hours of Suffering
Jesus had already undergone many hours of suffering before he reached the skull-shaped hill called Golgotha on which his cross was planted.

During the long hours of the night, the soldiers had buffeted him and spat upon him, fitting a purple robe around his shoulders and thrusting a sharp crown of thorns onto his head to mock the "king of the Jews."

Pilate had "scourged" him. A scourging was a brutal beating administered to prisoners with a special kind of whip whose many thongs were loaded with bits of metal.

In keeping with Roman custom, he was required to carry the heavy wooden crossbar to which his outstretched arms would be nailed. (The upright pole of the cross was already in place at the execution site.) Exhausted by his sleepless night and the beating

he had received, Jesus stumbled under the load. The guards compelled a bystander, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross for Jesus. Cyrene was a town of North Africa, and an ancient legend holds that Simon was a Negro, who later became a Christian apostle.

Stripped to Loin Cloth
At Golgotha, Jesus was stripped to a loin cloth and the Roman soldiers rolled dice for his clothing. He was offered wine, containing an opiate—an act of mercy which women of Jerusalem customarily extended to crucified men. But he would not take the pain-easing drug.

It was nine o'clock on a Friday morning when they nailed him to the cross.

Curious onlookers waited for him to curse and rail like other crucified men. When he remained silent, some of them began to taunt him, "If you're the Messiah," they said, "come down from that pole, and we'll believe in you."

"Father, forgive them," he said, "for they know not what they do."

Uttered Cry
Toward the end of his six-hour ordeal on the cross, Jesus uttered a cry that has been a source of great perplexity to his followers.

He cried: "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Some modern scholars point out that these are the opening words of the 22nd Psalm—a psalm that goes on to answer the question with a fervent affirmation of faith in God's unchanging love.

Others, however, see in this cry of despair a brief glimpse of the ultimate agony which Jesus suffered on the cross—that of "bearing the sins of all mankind," taking on himself the total burden of humanity's guilt and alienation from God.

When the end finally came, at 3 p.m., Jesus was once

again serene. His dying words were: "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit."
(Tomorrow: The Burial.)

Difference in Two Easters Explained

By United Press International
Easter comes this year on March 29—for Roman Catholics and Protestants.

For Eastern Orthodox Christians, Easter is May 3.

Why the difference? For centuries, the eastern and western branches of the Christian church have used different methods of computing the date of Easter.

In Western churches, it is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. The date varies from year to year, depending on the moon's phases. The earliest it can fall is March 22. The latest is April 25.

In the Eastern Orthodox churches, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the celebration of the Jewish Passover.

This rule was adopted by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to insure that the celebration of Easter and Passover would never occur simultaneously.

It works out so that the Orthodox Easter falls on a date one to six weeks later than the Catholic-Protestant Easter.

Crooked River Flood Project Suspended

Portland — (UPI) — The Army Corps of Engineers said Tuesday it was suspending a local flood protection project along Crooked river at Prineville because final design of the Prineville dam on the river will provide 47,000 acre-feet of surcharge storage.

Information Sought On Fishing Vessels

Washington — (UPI) — Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) asked the Navy Tuesday for detailed information on reports of 50 to 75 Russian vessels fishing and "probably other" vessels in the vicinity of the Pribilof islands in the Bering sea.

First Rebel Trial Starts in Iraq

Baghdad, Iraq — (UPI) — The first of the Mosul rebels went on trial Tuesday for treason. It was considered almost certain the trial would bring new charges that U. A. R. President Gamal Abdel Nasser aided the abortive revolt.

The rebellion against the regime of Premier Abdel Karim Kassem broke out in the northern city of Mosul early this month. It was crushed and many of its leaders killed but others were brought here for trials before a peoples court.

The Baghdad press, leading a nationwide propaganda war against Nasser, labeled him "an American imperialist slave."

Virtually every newspaper and radio station has poured abuse on the U. A. R. president. Children in the streets chant "hashish smoker Nasser."

Prosecutors failed to make pre-trial announcements concerning the number of defendants or the specific charges against them.

But the Baghdad daily newspaper Al Zaman said the first group of defendants would include four airplane pilots accused of attempting to bomb Baghdad radio headquarters.

Family Council

Edwin D.—I want to send him to the farm.

Joyce D.—I want to keep an eye on him.

Steve D.—I never did anything wrong.

Edwin D.—My wife and I are terribly confused and upset about how to deal with our 16-year-old boy, Steve.

A few months ago he and some other boys were caught in a "clubhouse" with some girls. They were all from his high school and it turns out that they had had regular "meetings" there with all kinds of high jinks going on. A few of the ringleaders were sent off to reform school and my boy and a couple of the girls, who were there for the first time, were sent home but placed under supervision by a social worker.

Now this probationary period is over and the social worker says Steve has come a long way in the last few months, but I don't trust him and I want to send him to my parents' farm until it is time for him to go into the service. My wife is against this.

Joyce D.—Ed is always talking about how wholesome everyone is out on the farm and how "rotten" city kids are, but I was brought up on a farm myself and I know that plenty went on there too.

The way I look at it, Ed's parents are just too old to keep looking out for a 16-year-old boy. If he can get into trouble here, he can there as well. I'd rather be around if and when he does. Maybe I can see when things are brewing and head them off — though I must admit I was fooled this time.

Steve D.—I just don't want to go to any farm. I never really did anything wrong anyway. One of the guys brought me to that clubhouse for the first time and I didn't even know exactly what went on there. I was just an innocent bystander. Why should I be shipped off?

The Council: We agree with Joyce that geography is no moral safeguard. The only geography that counts is that which is in the adolescent's mind. Steve needs an understanding of where the pitfalls in life are located and he must learn to find his way toward right conduct despite the dark woods and treacherous swamp that are found everywhere.

Ed shows that he is somewhat afraid of the problem of guiding his boy through adolescence and this is certainly no help. He hides his own fears and uncertainties by blaming "rotten" city kids. Surely he can't close his eyes to the fact that there are loads of good ones, but his boy chose some of the worst companions.

Ed is acting like an ostrich and Steven shows the same tendency. He protests his innocence too much. He must be made to recognize that he did do wrong. He knew very well that something improper was going on at the clubhouse. He sought it out and he did not go away the instant the truth could not be denied. Steve needs to understand his wrongdoing and to be educated as to the reasons for different behavior in the future. The reasons are not vague and simply covered by boy. He should know more the terms "right" and "wrong" for an adolescent boy. He should know more from the physical, psychological and religious points of view. Positive understanding will give him something to strive for whereas mere warning about evil will stir his curiosity as well as his fear. This kind of training is a job for parents and not grandparents.

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Spokane — (UPI) — Delegates to the 21st annual Intermountain Logging Conference have elected Donald E. Wolwell of the Cascade Lumber Co., Yakima, as president.

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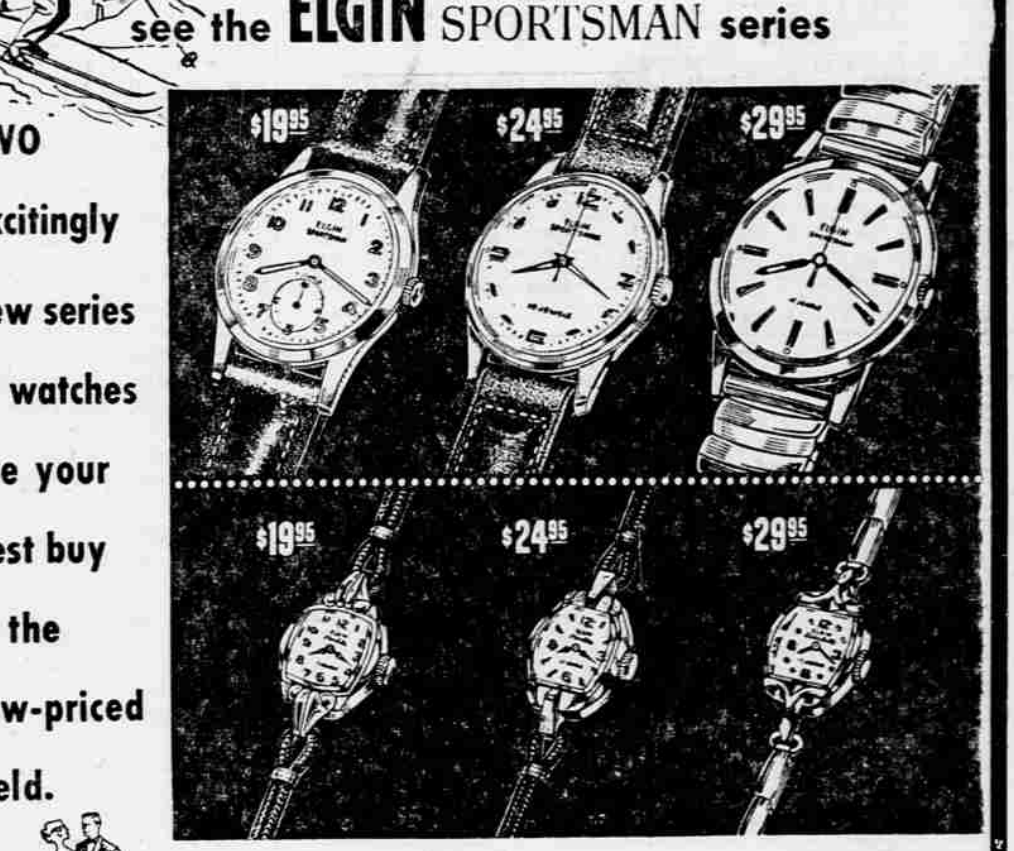
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