

Story and Meaning of Easter

By LOUIS CASSELS

UPI Correspondent
More than 700,000,000 people around the world will celebrate this Easter.

In stately Latin and melodious Polynesian, and in virtually every other known tongue, they will repeat the news that sped through the demoralized company of Christian disciples on the first Easter morning, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine years ago.

"He is risen!"
Easter is the oldest and most sacred of Christian holy days for a very good reason. Unlike the Oriental religions which are based on mystical experiences and metaphysical speculation, Christianity is anchored in history to an event—the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Case Staked
From its earliest days to the present, the Christian church has never hesitated to stake its whole case on the claim that this event really happened.

"If Christ be not risen," the apostle Paul told the Corinthians, "then is your faith in vain."

What is the evidence for the resurrection?
Many Christians probably would answer that question

Bids Planned on Bear Creek Bridge

The Eighth st. extension across Bear creek may be ready for use by Oct. 15, Medford City Manager Robert A. Duff said Thursday.

Duff said bids for the proposed bridge are to be called by June 4, at which time the city council would consider awarding a contract. He said the work is expected to take 120 days.

He said the city expects to start preparing the way for the approach between Riverside ave. and the creek soon after May 31, when the property becomes available.

Public Works Director Vernon Thorpe said today that work on the embankment east of the creek is nearly completed. He said the road out of Hawthorne park underneath the Main st. bridge will be blocked during construction work but will be open at other times. This road is to be linked eventually with the Eighth st. extension, he said.

by citing the Biblical stories about the finding of the empty tomb. These stories dramatize the fact of the resurrection as nothing else can, and their devotional value has earned them the central place at most Easter worship services.

Secondary Evidence
But to the rigorously objective modern scholars who have exposed the New Testament to the most searching scrutiny ever given to any book, the empty tomb is secondary evidence.

These scholars point out that there are a number of discrepancies in the various gospel narratives about the awesome discovery that greeted the devoted women who went to the tomb "early in the morning on the first day of the week."

These discrepancies do not mean that the story is untrue. On the contrary, even a newspaper reporter can discern, in the different accounts, just that variation in detail but agreement on the essential fact, which is the hallmark of authentic eyewitness accounts of any momentous event.

But the discrepancies do indicate to Biblical researchers that the first Christians did not attach primary importance to the empty tomb. If they had, a greater attempt probably would have been made to pin down the precise facts, to harmonize the disparate versions that circulated freely in the oral traditions until they eventually were set down in the gospels.

Answer Clear
What pushed the empty tomb into the background of the early apostles' thoughts? The answer is abundantly clear in all of the gospels, in the book of Acts and in Paul's letters.

The apostles saw Jesus himself, not once but on many occasions after his death. They knew him to be living, and their supreme certainty of this fact made all "corroborating evidence" seem unimportant.

The earliest account of Jesus' resurrection appearances is given in Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth:

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that

he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve.

"Then he appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all . . . he appeared also to me."

It is sometimes said that the resurrection of Jesus is "the best-attested fact in history," because the whole Christian church bears witness to it.

Two Ideas in Mind
Those who make this statement usually have two ideas in mind.

First, they mean that the existence of the church can hardly be explained except in terms of the resurrection. As one scholar has written, "it is easier, even for a non-believer in miracles, to accept the fact of the resurrection than to find any other adequate explanation of the change that came over the disciples within three days after they had fled Jerusalem in terror."

The second meaning is that the church, from the time of the apostles until now, has consisted at its core of men and women who are convinced—not by anything they had read or have been told, but by the irrefutable evidence of Christ is living still.

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Board Commends Jacksonville

The board of directors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce recently passed a resolution commending the community of Jacksonville for their efforts to maintain the historical atmosphere of the town.

The board urged county-wide support of the efforts to restore the U. S. Hotel and other buildings of historical significance to Oregon.

A special committee will be appointed later to meet with Jacksonville officials and other city community groups to offer assistance in furthering the overall restoration projects.

The action came as a result of a preliminary report on the Jacksonville town meeting which was attended by a representative of the board of directors of the chamber.

The chamber is currently preparing to issue another factual leaflet on Jacksonville and has re-printed 15,000 copies of the tourist information folder entitled "Explore Frontier Jacksonville, Oregon."

Both pieces of literature are intended for promotional use outside of the immediate area and will be distributed nationally.

Italy has a population of 46,598,000.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Ben J. — She dresses like Marilyn Monroe.
Gloria J. — So what?

Ben J. — My wife and I have been married 10 years and have five children. It would take a year to tell all the trouble I've had with that woman so I'll just stick to the worst things.

Gloria J. — Nearly 30, but she thinks she's sweet 16. She bleaches her hair and dresses in tight, low-cut dresses all the time. All our neighbors laugh at her and every man turns around to look after her. You can hear the wolf whistles from blocks away when Gloria goes walking down the street. You'd think she's MM, herself.

As you can imagine, our house is a mess, the kids are bawling all the time, the dinner is never ready on time (except when it's burnt) and we have gotten to the point where most of the dinnerware

is busted. Yes, she throws things too.

Gloria J. — That's his story! From the day we've been married, he's done nothing but yell the most horrible, disgusting things at me—in front of the children too. He has called me the most awful names right out in the street in front of people. That's why people laugh at him, though. Everyone is sorry for me having to put up with such a jerk for a husband.

I don't dress any different than the other women around here. Since when is it a crime to bleach your hair? I'm a natural blond, but my hair has gotten darker, so I touch it up.

So what?
As for our house, I work like a horse taking care of it and the kids. I'd like to see His Majesty lift a finger some time to make things better if they don't please him.

The Council: Any woman with a home and five young children to take care of has a more than man-sized job on her hands. The most efficient homemaker would not always come through with a successful dinner and the miracle-worker who can prevent five young children from bawling hasn't been created.

Such a woman is entitled to one big satisfaction in life—her husband's tenderness and appreciation. Take these away and her work is a hateful burden. She'll take it out on the kids, on her husband, on herself.

We gather that in her hunger for some masculine appreciation, Gloria has been forced to turn to outsiders. When men's glances and wolf whistles follow her, she makes up in some small measure for what she is not getting from her husband.

But Gloria is not 16 and she knows very well that this brand of appreciation is trivial and often phony. She would be far happier if she got the real thing from the husband who apparently cares enough for her to live with her for 10 years.

We don't think that any-

thing justifies a man calling faults.

We do think that a man can easily get his wife to tone down her dress by one very simple method. He can show her that he sincerely appre-

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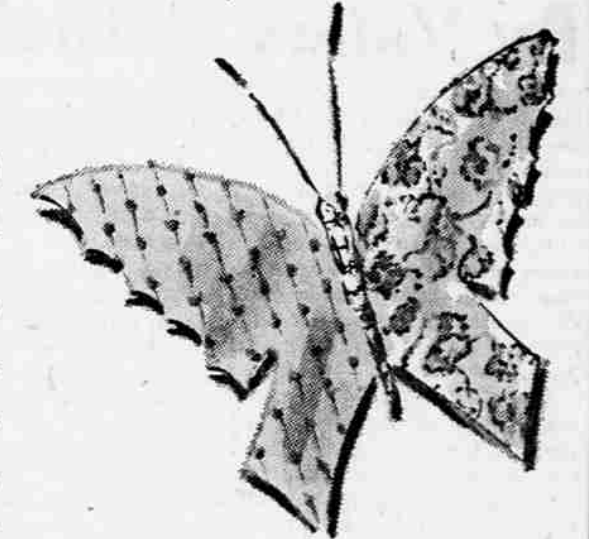
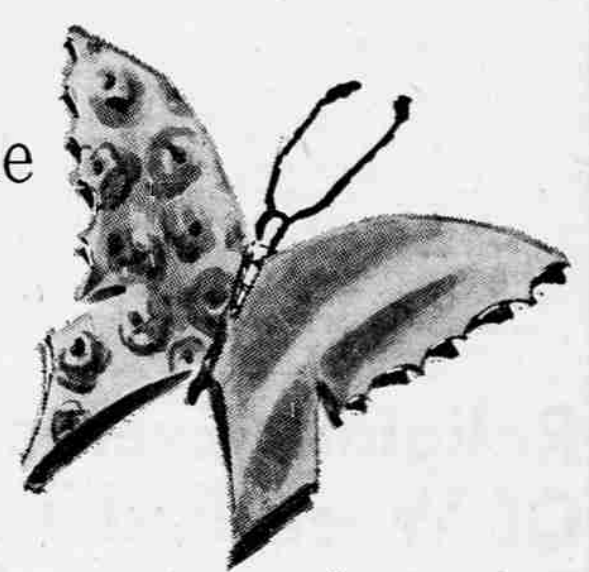
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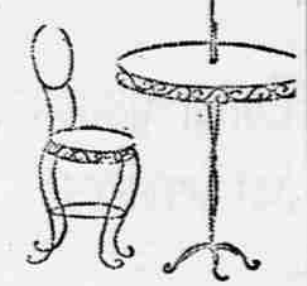
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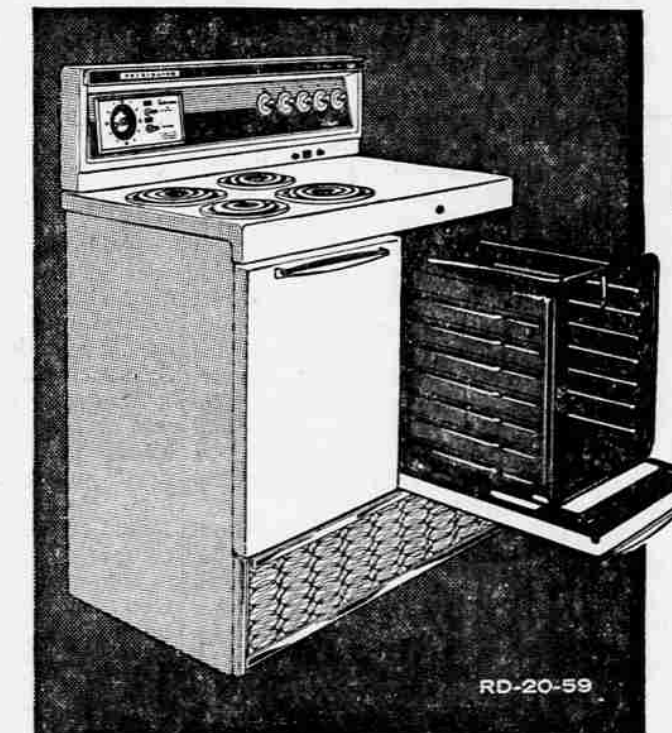
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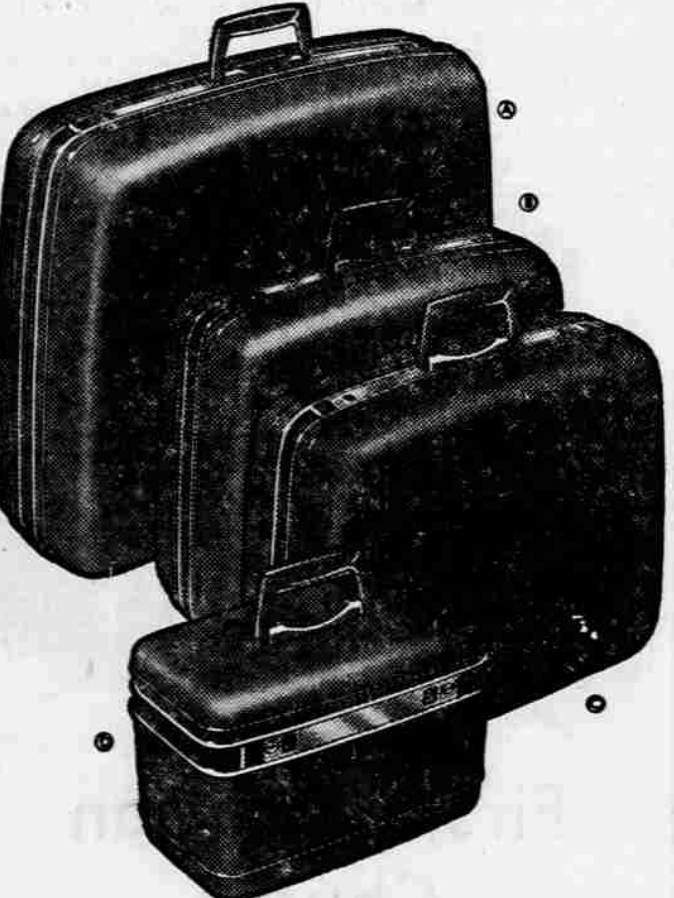
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