

Cross—Former Execution Instrument — Said Most Beloved Symbol on Earth

By LOUIS CASSELS

A visitor from another planet would soon discern that the most widely beloved symbol on earth is a T-shaped cross.

He would see it thrust skyward from the spires of churches, carried reverently in solemn processions, worn proudly in coat lapels. He would find it carved in stone to mark graves, displayed in neon lights to guide derelicts to a slum mission.

He would conclude that mankind's highest hopes are somehow tied up with this symbol. And he would be right.

Horrible Ancestor

But he would never guess that the cross was an instrument of execution — an early and particularly horrible ancestor of the gallows, the guillotine and the electric chair.

It is surely one of the strangest paradoxes of history that a gibbet has been cherished for 2,000 years as the supreme proof of God's love for man.

This paradox is worth pondering for a few moments at Easter time. It is a fresh reminder that something very extraordinary must have happened in and near the city of Jerusalem in the spring of the year A.D. 30.

A New Community

Men may argue about the precise nature of this event. But it is a matter of objective historical fact that it produced a new community of men and women known as the Christian Church, which quickly spread all over the Roman Empire.

This community was characterized from the outset by a radically different outlook toward life and death than that which prevailed in the world around them. Among other things, they were about to look upon a cross as a symbol of victory rather than defeat.

The answer stands forth unmistakably from the earliest records of the Christian community which have been handed down to us as the New Testament. These men and women had become followers of Jesus of Nazareth because they believed he was sent by God. Then they had seen him arrested, tried and put to death on a Roman cross.

They had fled from the scene of the crucifixion in panic and despair, their hopes crushed, their own lives in peril. If the story had ended there, the cross would certainly have been the last thing on earth they wished to be reminded of.

Jesus Returns

But the story didn't end there. Within three days, Jesus had returned to them. They were as startled to see him alive as you would be if you met on the street today a friend whose funeral you attended a few days ago. No person hearing the story of the Resurrection today can possibly be any more skeptical of it than were the Apostles when they first heard about it. The record shows that Jesus had to go to great lengths to overcome their incredulity. Once he ate an impromptu meal of cold fish and honeycomb — the only food at hand — to demonstrate to one diehard doubter that he wasn't a ghost.

No Example

Once the disciples got over their surprise, they were totally convinced. There is in all history no example of a group of human beings who were more absolutely, unflinchingly certain of a fact than the early church was of the reality of the Resurrection. Any suggestion that their conviction was feigned found-

ers quickly on the crosses of the Christian martyrs which soon sprang up from Jerusalem to Rome. Men do not die joyously to perpetuate a hoax.

Divine Sign

It is also clear from the community's earliest records that the Resurrection did not impress the disciples merely as an awesome miracle. These devout Jews had never doubted that God could resuscitate a dead man if he chose to do so. The good news was that God did choose to do so, in the case of Jesus. Thus the Resurrection was above all else a Divine sign and seal on the work of Jesus. It was the ultimate confirmation that He had indeed been sent by God, and that He had told men the truth.

Unexpected Fact

Christian theology did not begin with belief that Jesus was the son of God, and work forward to the Resurrection as a logical sequel. It began with the startling, unexpected fact of the Resurrection, and worked back to figure out what manner of person this was that had walked among men.

It was in the light of the Resurrection that the disciples learned to understand the cross as an acted parable of God's love — a love that extends to paying the full price of reconciliation with men who do not even know that they need to be forgiven.

Gay Charmer



9054
by Marian Martin

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Extra Big Summer Pattern Catalog—over 106 styles for all sizes, occasions. Send 35c.

Three Medford Men Receive Trophies

Three Medford men, drivers for Greyhound lines, were awarded trophies by company officers during a meeting last week in the Medford hotel.

The drivers are Tom Work, Don Tackley and E. B. Van Horn. They were given the awards for a 16 per cent improvement in their safety records.

Making the awards were Stan Ossman, San Francisco, director of safety, and R. N. Dick, Seattle, assistant regional manager.

Stephens Committee Plans Dinner, Dance

The Stephens for Sheriff campaign committee announced today a potluck dinner and dance starting at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Pythian hall, Grape and Fifth sts. Medford. will be held for Berle Stephens, Democratic candidate for sheriff.

The event will be open to the public, the committee noted, and entertainment is planned. The committee said the event is designed to be a family affair.

4-Patch Beauty



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by Alice Brooks

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Crusade Plans for Prospect Noted

Prospect — The American Cancer Society volunteers in the Prospect area have organized their residential Crusade under the chairmanship of Mrs. V. L. Chapman, who has been education and crusade chairman for the past four years.

She will be assisted by Mrs. Jim Flack, Mrs. Delene Denny, Mrs. Sidney Morse, Mrs. Harold Hixon, Mrs. Jack DeRosier, and Mrs. Roger Snyder.

May 1 through 5 will be "C" days in the Prospect area when volunteers will call on neighbors to distribute pamphlets pointing out facts about cancer and to acquaint families with the services available for cancer patients in Jackson county. At this time contributions will be accepted to help carry on the American Cancer Society's program of research, education, and service.

There are about 300 varieties of sharks which range in length from two to 60 feet. About one dozen are considered dangerous and may attack human beings.

Unveiling at Luncheon

Saints and Sinners Club Provides Unusual Entertainment for Hodges

By DICK WEST

Washington — When a member of the President's cabinet is being honored at a luncheon, you expect to see some kind of an unveiling.



West

But the unveiling that took place Wednesday at a luncheon given in honor of Commerce Secretary Luther H. Hodges was for me at least, a new experience.

It was the first time I ever saw a striptease at high noon. Lest this give you the wrong idea, let me hasten to add that Hodges had nothing to do with the performance. He was merely the innocent victim of a group of local intellectuals who are members of the Saints & Sinners Club.

Members Pan Hodges. Club members meet periodically to break bread together and roast some government official.

Wednesday, it was Hodges' turn to be panned. In addition to bump-and-grind artists, the cultural part of the program included the life history of the guest of honor, as related by Walter Kiernan.

Hodges, said Kiernan, was born in a log house which was built by his father. The building no longer is standing. In fact, it never did. It leaned.

The elder Hodges, explained Kiernan, "was a nice guy but a lousy carpenter."

The Hodges family, he continued, was underprivileged, "but there was no one in Washington to tell them so, so they never knew it."

From that humble beginning, Hodges rose to become governor of North Carolina and later head of the commerce department.

Cite Improvements

According to the Saints & Sinners, the department has undergone many improvements under his stewardship. For one thing, the old slogan "You never had it so good"

has been changed to "You never had it done to you so good."

Kiernan said that Hodges extended the olive branch to business — and the steel companies climbed out on it.

But perhaps the major improvement has been in the Weather Bureau, one of the branches of the Commerce Department. Thanks to the new weather satellites, the guests were told, it now is possible for the forecast to be wrong two weeks in advance.

I don't know how Hodges felt about the strippers, but he seemed to enjoy the ribbing he was getting. In fact, he managed to jest a bit about the recent clash between the President and steel executive Roger Blough.

When he told his secretary he was going to lunch with the Saints & Sinners, he said, she thought he was referring to the Kennedys and the Bloughs.

Physical Exams Set For Jewett Pupils

Central Point Physical examinations for children who will enter the first grade next fall will be given by the Jackson county health department at Jewett Elementary school April 25 and 26.

School officials have asked that each child entering school present evidence of having had a physical examination. Immunizations should be brought up to date at this time, they said. This may be obtained from the family physician, or by attending the clinic at Jewett school.

Youngsters are examined without charge by Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health officer.

Parents of Central Point children may call Normandy 4-2740 between noon and 4 p.m. week days for an appointment.

Madison, Wis. — The Philadelphia orchestra plans to do a little swinging when it plays a May 10 concert here. The orchestra has asked the University of Wisconsin student newspaper to find a fraternity softball team to play the musicians' nine.

Princess Grace Has Wedding Anniversary

Monte Carlo — Prince Rainier and Princess Grace observed their sixth wedding anniversary Thursday at a quiet lunch with a small group of intimate friends in the royal palace.

Among those attending was Grace's mother, Mrs. John B. Kelly Sr. of Philadelphia, who came to Monaco with the princess Wednesday after a two-day stay in Paris.

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