

Religion in America

'Holy Week' Recalls Events Climaxed by Death of Christ

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Jesus Christ lived among men for about 33 years. But his public ministry lasted only two or three years at most. And the climactic events of his brief career were crammed into a single week.

The momentous week occurred more than 19 hundred years ago. But such was its impact on the hearts and minds of men that it is still being commemorated in all the world as "Holy Week."

The 1963 celebration of Holy Week began last Sunday. The first day of Holy Week is called "Palm Sunday." The name comes from the royal welcome which Jesus received from the people of Jerusalem when he arrived in the city for the first time.

Fame Precedes Him
His fame as a teacher and a healer had preceded him from the hinterlands of Galilee, where most of his ministry was conducted. Many people thought he was coming to Jerusalem to lead a revolt against the Roman army of occupation. So they greeted him as a king. In our day we roll out a red carpet for visiting royalty. In the first century A.D., the custom was to pave his path with palm branches.

Jesus was not elated by his reception. He knew that the fickle crowd would turn against him when they learned that he was not the kind of deliverer they wanted. He had already warned his disciples that he was going to Jerusalem, not to be honored, but to be executed.

The disciples found that a prophecy hard to believe. But they were to witness many strange things before the week was out.

Speaks in Temple
Jesus spent Monday and Tuesday at Jerusalem's hill-top temple, trying to make clear by words and deeds the true nature of the "kingdom of God" which he had come to proclaim. When he talked to plain people, he illustrated his points with homely little stories called parables. When theologians and lawyers tried to trap him with loaded questions, he quoted their own scriptures and law books to them. Once he got angry at racketeers who had set up carnival-like booths in the temple courtyard to bilk tourists. He seized a whip and drove them out.

By Wednesday, Jesus could see that he was making few converts and many enemies. He left Jerusalem and spent the day with some old friends who lived in a little suburb called Bethany. Meanwhile, leaders of organized religion and respectable men of property met secretly in the city and decided that this Galilean trouble-maker must be gotten out of the way. They made a deal with a disgruntled disciple named Judas Iscariot to serve as finger man for the arrest. Judas sold out his Master for 30 pieces of silver.

Last Supper
On Thursday evening, Jesus celebrated the Jewish feast of the Passover with his disciples in the upstairs room of a private home in Jerusalem. The supper of unleavened bread and wine was spread on a low wooden table. Jesus heard some of his disciples squabbling over which of them was most important. To teach them a lesson in humility, he took a towel and basin of water, and washed the grime from their sandal-shod feet. It was a task usually performed by slaves in the homes of the rich. Jesus told them that in the kingdom of God, the only great men were those who served others.

The word that Jesus spoke when he distributed the bread and wine gave that Last Supper a special significance. He said the bread represented his body, the wine his blood. He told his disciples that the body would soon be broken and the blood spilled because he loved them, and because only by suffering on their behalf could he "ransom" them from sin and death.

Events Move Quickly
Things moved fast after that Jesus was arrested, tried in the middle of the night, found guilty of blasphemy for acknowledging that he claimed to be the Son of God. He was hustled before the local representative of Roman authority, a whimsy-washy fellow named Pontius Pilate.

Queen For A Day Show
Postponed to April 17

Announcement that a former Rogue valley school teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Marler, was to be on the Queen for a Day program had scarcely got into print when Mrs. C. C. Herlow called the Mail Tribune Wednesday to say the program had been postponed to April 17.

Mrs. Marler telephoned her mother of the change from Los Angeles. The program will be on Channel 10 at 3 p.m. April 17, Mrs. Herlow said.

who yielded to the demands of a noisy mob and condemned Jesus to death.

Death Is Painful
After being tortured for several hours, Jesus was taken, shortly before noon on Friday, to the top of a hill named Calvary. He was stripped of his clothing and made to lie down on a crude wooden

cross. His arms were stretched out on the crossbeam and wooden nails were hammered through his hands. Other nails were driven through his feet to attach them to the central post. Then the cross was raised upright and its bottom end was dropped with a rending jolt into a hole in the ground.

He hung there for three hours. Crucifixion is an extremely painful form of execution, and men undergoing it are rarely able to utter any sounds except screams of agony. Jesus managed to speak seven brief sentences. One of them was: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

When he was dead, his body was placed in a tomb hewn out of rock. It lay there over Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. Early Sunday morning a few women mourners went to the tomb to apply embalming ointments to the body.

They returned with news which the frightened and demoralized disciples at first dismissed as "an idle tale." Later, the disciples confirmed it for themselves, through first-hand experience, and set forth to proclaim to all the world the good news that is still reverberating in Easter anthems:

"He is risen!"
"He is risen indeed."

Accused Eichmann Accomplice Held

Bern, Switzerland - (UPI) - An Austrian lawyer accused by former concentration camp Jews of being Adolf Eichmann's accomplice is being held by Swiss police.

A police spokesman said Erico Raja, whom the Jews charged was responsible for the death of Anne Frank, was picked up at Melide, near Lugano, this morning and held for questioning.

Bicycle Racers Lunch at Yreka

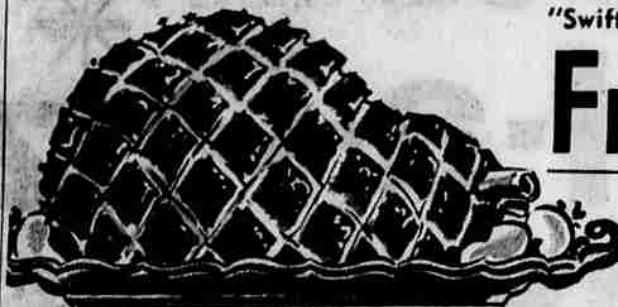
Yreka, Calif. - (UPI) - A pair of college bicycle teams, competing in a 1,187 mile race, met here Wednesday and had lunch together before pushing on toward their destinations at opposite ends of the Pacific Coast. The teams, composed of three students each, are from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., and California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, Calif. Both teams left Saturday. The PLU team hopes to go through Sacramento, Calif., today in its efforts to get to Thousand Oaks before the California team gets to Tacoma. The California team stayed overnight at Medford Wednesday night.

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Half Ham **79¢** lb.

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Lamb Roast **39¢** lb.
Tender, tasty grain fattened lamb. Well trimmed square cut shoulder.

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Swift Premium or USDA Good tender aged beef. Really fit for "Your King or Queen." Trimmed oven ready.

PROPERLY AGED
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THUNDERBIRD
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