

# High Egg Prices Threat To Easter Egg Hunts On Big Scale For Klamathites

With eggs higher than usual at Easter time, a time when Easter egg dyeing takes over practically every kitchen in the land the night before Easter Sunday, the tinting and dipping of the hen fruit will not be as flagrant as in past seasons and lots of parents will resort to chocolate eggs and rabbits.

White eggs, of course, are the only eggs to buy for dyeing. Brown eggs are pretty good inside but outside they all look like dull mud with a tint of orangeish-brown in speckles. Today's egg market was plentiful but the price was a little too high for momma to say, "Send me 12 dozen eggs for Junior's egg hunt." Retail price for AA large was around 66 cents, for AA medium, about 64 cents.

Easter as usual falls on Sunday, and this week is known as Holy Week in the Christian church. Next Sunday, March 28, is Easter and will be fittingly celebrated in Sunday school rooms and churches.

But getting back to Saturday night's Easter egg dipping. Coloring eggs is an Easter custom older than Easter itself. The exact moment in history when the egg and the dye met for the first time will probably never be known, because it was so long ago that the earliest records yet discovered deal with egg dyeing as an already established custom. The ancient Egyptians, Persians, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, Gauls, Goths and Norse, all dyed eggs during their annual celebration of the coming of spring and the renewal of the earth's fertility. To them the symbol of fertility was the egg. This practice, along with many other pagan springtime rites, was shrewdly adopted by the founders of the Christian church and given a new Christian Easter meaning. Thus the egg came to represent the resurrection, and the red coloring used by the heathens as a symbol of the life force in nature to denote the blood Christ shed on the cross.

**Early Dyes**  
Red remains a favorite Easter-egg color, but long before dyes came in tablets, neatly wrapped in cellophane, people began boiling eggs with various roots, herbs, berries, flowers and other handy sources of pigment that stained them with all the colors of the rainbow—beets for red, onionskins and coffee for brown, parsley for green, saffron for yellow and sea mollusks for royal purple, to mention only a few.

In many European countries, Easter egg decoration is a highly developed folk art. Women spend days ornamenting hard cooked eggs with complex, brilliantly colored floral and geometric designs believed to be

the same as those the ancient Persians used for the purpose.

In the north of England Easter eggs bearing names and dates—inscribed with the tip of a tallow candle and hence left white when the egg was colored—are kept for generations and have been admitted as evidence in English courts which considered them just as reliable as tombstones or records kept in family Bibles.

### Easter Item

A "roll of expenses" of the household of Edward I, who ruled England from 1272 to 1307, contains this Easter item: "Four hundred and a half of eggs, 18 pence," bought "in order to have them stained in boiling or covered with leaf gold, and to be afterwards distributed to the Royal Household."

In France, Germany, England and other European countries, games in which the opponents knock Easter eggs together, roll them (the source of the children's egg-rolling party at the White House), race with them, exchange them, or play marbles with them have long been popular. One historian reports that in some English churches during the Middle Ages, bishops and archbishops used colored eggs to play handball with the lower clergy on Easter Day. But perhaps the most interesting Easter egg sport was a Russian one in which, according to a 16th century English observer, friends "kiss and exchange their eggs, both men and women, continuing in kissing four days together."

### Farm Writer Pays Visit In Klamath

Freelance writer for several farm magazines, William G. Schulz of Portland, was here this week conferring with Jim Ellings, assistant county agent. Schulz was getting data on the Angus show and sale slated at the Klamath county fairgrounds for April 18-19. The writer will be here again in

### Helping The Easter Bunny



Evelyn Friscoe of a Klamath Falls "dime store," is lending a hand to the already overworked bunny this week. She decorates chocolate Easter eggs with the name of the youngster who will enjoy munching on the rich confection next Sunday, which is Easter Day. Easter comes early this year, the earliest, in fact, of any recent year except 1940, when Easter fell on March 24. Easter Sundays vary in date but a lot of people don't understand why. The moon has a lot to do with it. The date for Easter is set for the first Sunday after the first full moon to follow March 21, the vernal equinox. Thus it can vary from March 22 to April 25.

April to gather material for several stories on farm and livestock practices in Klamath basin. Among publication Schulz writes for are County, Gentleman, Northwest Farm News and Western Livestock Journal.

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### Alfalfa Tests Show Variety

Klamath experimental area results of cereal and alfalfa variety trials carried in recent years show differences in productiveness that are as marked as differences in productiveness of selected lines of pure bred dairy stock.

A four-year average for eight different alfalfa varieties shows Ladak and Oregon Grimm alfalfa with annual yields of 5.06 and 4.98 tons, respectively, surpassed only by Ranger with 5.27 tons.

Ranger, a wilt resistant variety, is particularly desirable in areas where wilt rapidly thins stands. Alfalfa wilt is not common here.

Although these trials show Ranger to produce about 400 lbs. more hay per acre than Ladak, Ladak is considered easier to start. Rapid rooting of Ladak and its long taproot are outstanding characteristics of this variety. In the seedling stage length of root is easily triple the height of plant. Ladak goes down much faster than it grows up. For dry land, long tap-rooted Ladak is still best and many prefer it for deeper, well-trained, irrigated lands. Ladak has been giving a heavier first cutting than Grimm but drops below Grimm appreciably in leafiness and tonnage on second cutting.

### Spud Acreage Here Gains

The latest agricultural situation and outlook just received at the county agent's office has a few remarks about potatoes.

"The potato crop in the United States this year will probably be somewhat larger than last as the planted acreage goal for the 1948 crop is 10 per cent more plantings than in 1947." But it should also be borne in mind that goals for 1947 were not generally planted to the full amount.

"Potato prices will be supported at 90 per cent of parity until January 1, 1949, and support prices beyond that date has not been announced." Something should be coming through on this in the near future.

It looks as though the Klamath basin acreage will be someplace in the neighborhood of 35 to 40 per cent greater than in 1947. This is due mainly to the fact that growers did not plant up to anywhere near

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their goals in 1947 and generally intend to plant the full amount this year with a few cases of over-planting. Klamath basin acreage is generally estimated at 20,000 to 21,000 acres for 1948.

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