

Roman Describes Christ's Execution

By TOM HENSHAW
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Gaius my father,
The Galilean is dead!
He was crucified this day be-
tween two common thieves in the
place of execution called Golgotha
while street scum mocked and
taunted him and the black skies
were rent by lightning and thun-
der fairly shook the earth.
And, while the mob hurled jeers
and insults and laughing soldiers
cast lots for his garments, the
tortured Galilean lifted his head
and asked — no, implored — par-
don for them saying: "Father,
forgive them, for they know not
what they do."
The Procurator Pilate, the last
man who could have saved him,
allowed himself to be cowed by
the mob's thirst for blood. The
Procurator pronounced him fault-

less yet summoned a bowl of wa-
ter and washed his hands of the
whole affair.
But, I can find it in my heart
to understand and forgive the Pro-
curator for, in the words of the
Galilean, in his weakness he knew
not what he did. But why do I
speak of forgiveness? Do strong
men forgive? Is forgiveness not
a weakness?
The Galilean is dead!
This I know, for I was with the
crowd that followed as he carried
his cross to the place of execu-
tion, bloodied and weakened from
scourging, dressed in robes of
mock royalty and crowned with a
circuit of thorns. Would that I
could have helped him in his or-
deal.
I stood at the foot of the cross
as his life expired, when a bolt of
lightning splashed the scene with
unearthly light and the world
rocked beneath our feet as in an
earthquake and a centurion of
Rome stood stunned and gasped
out: "Truly, this was the Son of
God."
If only I could have spoken per-
sonally with this Galilean, this
Jesus, this Christ. If only I
could have put to him these ques-
tions that now torture me. Must
they haunt me the rest of my
life?
Now, it is too late.
The Galilean, Jesus, lies in the
tomb. His tomb is sealed by a
rock, one too heavy to be rolled
away by one man or by six men.
Soldiers stand guard over the
tomb for the priests fear him
even in death. What do they fear?
That he will arise from the dead?
His followers, the 12 — no, 11 —
who were his close disciples, have

disappeared. Scattered to the four
winds. Now I wish I had taken
Peter more seriously two days ago
when we talked of this man and
his teachings. Would that I had
given him both ears! Now it is
too late.
Or is it? Is it ever too late?
If Jesus is the Son of God then
he will find some way to show
me, some way to answer these
questions that burn within me.
But is he the Son of God?
Part of me says no. At Gol-
gotha, a man near me, one of the
mockers, shouted at Jesus: "If
you are the Son of God, why do
you not save yourself as you claim
to have saved others?" Indeed,
I asked myself the same ques-
tion. Why did he not save him-
self?
Another part of me says yes, and
waiting, waiting.

Detective Deems Drawers Damns

DETROIT (AP) — Detective
Harold Sparkman had a particu-
lar interest in the breaking and
entering case against James
White, 26.
Investigating a cleaning plant
theft, Sparkman said he found
three pair of pants of his own,
plus his sports jacket and a suit,
at White's Royal Oak Township
home.
White was held in \$2,000 bond
on his plea of innocent.
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caught in South Dakota.

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the Easter parade.

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sleeves, tops a printed linen dress.
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sleeves, large patch pockets, striped
satin lining.

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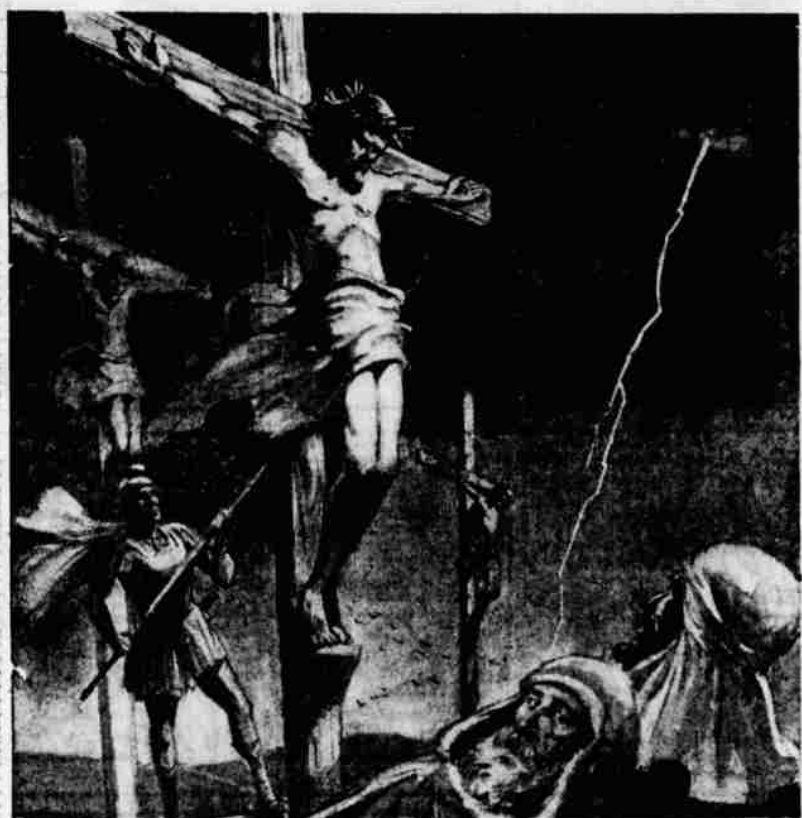
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coachman style short sleeves with
wide cuffs, turn-back collar, slash-
pockets. aqua or pink plaid.



"I STOOD AT THE FOOT of the cross as his life expired, when a bolt of lightning
splashed the scene with unearthly light and the world rocked as in an earthquake . . ."

Mama Possum Causes Havoc

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP) — A
mama possum who wanted to
have her litter in privacy gave
police fits Thursday and nearly
wrecked a squad car.

Police got a call about a "fero-
cious wild animal" in a backyard.
Patrolman H. Carpenter and
other officers arrived to find the
trouble multiplying. Mama pos-
sum was giving birth. She showed
her teeth.

Officers chased her into a gar-
age and managed to scoop her
into a garbage can. Babies and all.
The officers put the lid on the can
and patrolman K. Thuleen and
Carpenter started off to the zoo.
Then mama possum flipped the
lid and crashed out, seeking re-
venge. Thuleen stopped the car.
They finally got mama back in
the can.

When they got to the zoo, the
officers turned the can and its
contents over to workers and
gratefully returned to coping with
crime.

Magistrate To Retire

CHESTER, N.S. (AP) — A 97-
year-old magistrate who says he
never should have had the job is
retiring after nearly 25 years in
office.

Cottnam Smith became a jus-
tice of the peace in the early 1920s
and in 1935 was appointed a mag-
istrate. He stopped holding regu-
lar court sessions several years
ago, but police continued to bring
him legal papers to sign and an
occasional case to try.

Smith said he left school after
the seventh grade and never had
the education for the bench.
"I was a farmer and a black-
smith," he said, "and that's what
I should have stuck with."

ISN'T SAYING
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ire-
land's President Sean O'Kelly,
now touring America, gets a re-
ception today in the Emerald
Room of the Barclay Hotel.

All very appropriate, you'd say.
What the management of the ho-
tel isn't saying is that it usually is
called the English Room.

It was John Ruskin who said,
"You cannot sympathize rightly
with man unless you also sym-
pathize with animals."

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