

# The Easter Festival

By Lena M. McCauley

"The world itself keeps Easter Day," begins an old carol in recognition that Easter is a festival of spring. While the Christian faith accepts it as a movable feast depending on the time of the Paschal moon, it is always within the period when nature is awaking from winter to a renewal of life. Each day the sun rises earlier, its warmth drawing the frost from the ground. As if by magic the dull fields are veiled in tender green and the flowers bud in the sheltered places.

In the first days of human history the cave man rubbed dry sticks together to steal fire from the sun. When the spring melted the ice of winter, he bowed more profoundly to the great luminary in the sky as it appeared in the east, and later when he built his altars he renewed the fires when the sun turned northward.

The word Easter is from the Saxon "Eostre," the name of the goddess of spring. "Eoster" lived in the east with the rising sun. She was the most gentle of all the deities of the pagan world. As she tripped across the meadows the grass came out, the flowers blossomed, the ice was broken

### Significant of Resurrection.

Each year Eostre was born again significant of the resurrection from the dead of the Christian faith. The young plants awoke to life from dry seeds, the chicks from the eggs, and everywhere in nature the springtide under the spell or Eostre became lovely after the winter's sleep.

The Romans adopted the Saxon Eostre as their goddess Aurora. When the Christian fathers were naming the feasts of the church it was a wise thought that brought the old nature worship and the Easter resurrection into harmony.

The Emperor Constantine, at the beginning of the fourth century, resolved to fix the time of Easter that it should not conflict with the Jewish Passover. To prevent disputes, he made the rules which were accepted at the Council of Nice in 325 A. D. The twenty-first day of March was known as the Vernal Equinox, the next full moon was the moon of Nisan, or the Jewish Passover, and the Lord's Day following was Easter Day. But if the full moon happened on a Sunday, Easter Day was the Sunday after that.

Old Easter customs, while differing widely according to religions and localities, had some things in common. The Easter flower has always been sacred to altars. Today we speak of the Easter lily, meaning the St. Jo-

seph lily, and in other parts of the world the daffodil, or the narcissus, or the calla lily may be regarded as the Easter lily.

The colored Easter eggs, as gay as the Easter flowers in the fields, are universal. In Russia and in Paris, and in fact today in all large cities of the world, imitation eggs are made of confectionery, and jewelers go so far as to make eggs of gold and silver and to set them with gems for the Easter trade.

### Easter Symbols Universal.

The Christian church introduced the most beautiful celebrations of all. Easter is the inspiring feast of the year and its celebration means a renewal of faith. Even in remote parts of the world, where priests and their little flocks assemble, the Easter lights burn on the altars and faithful congregations sing Easter carols with joy.

The most solemn celebration of all is that held in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at Jerusalem. Pilgrims assemble from every corner of Christendom, and ascend the Via Dolorosa chanting prayers. Many attend the feet-washing ceremonies, and throngs haste to the church where devotion keeps them waiting from Good Friday until Saturday afternoon, when the Patriarch with unlighted torch enters the gloom of the sepulcher.

They watch with bated breath for his return. No light flickers in the darkness, then suddenly a blaze flames up, the torch is on fire and with a shout of thanksgiving the multitude breaks into singing a glorious hymn of thanksgiving. Those nearest the altar eagerly snatch fire from the torch, candle after candle is lighted until every taper in the church is burning. The worshipers rise, the gloom is dispelled, and they go forth into the gray of the morning greeting one another, "Christ is arisen!" meeting the reply, "He is arisen indeed!"

### Ceremonies at Rome.

The festal ceremonies at Rome are most splendid. The Pope officiates at mass on that day and St. Peter's is filled with cardinals, prelates, and dignitaries from all parts of the world. The day is ushered in by firing cannon from the Castle of St. Angelo. The magnificent basilica is richly decorated, altars are newly ornamented, the lights around St. Peter's tomb are burning, and the Pope is seated in his chair of state in vestments ablaze with gold.

### Beautiful Easter Carols.

Easter carols are sung in all Christian lands. Some of the most beautiful are those from the Tyrol, where singers go from house to house. Spain

## What! A Broken Furnace?

No! No! NOT A BROKEN FURNACE, BUT MY HIGH-GRADE RED ASH

## BROKEN COAL

in your furnace will make you comfortable these wintry days. Give them a trial and be convinced. My facilities for handling coal are excellent and I earnestly solicit your patronage.

**JOHN B. CURRY**

Swatara Statton, Pa.

BOTH PHONES  
COAL UNDER ROOF

gives way to joy in fetes, and gifts are made to the Virgin, who is adorned with her best robes and jewels at this time. Russians enjoy a gift tree, like our Christmas tree, while jeweled Easter eggs are exchanged in the imperial household.

There is a mystery about the origin of the Easter rabbit of Germany. Egg-hunting in the forest, where grown people have hidden the colored eggs, is as popular as egg-rolling is on the White House grounds in Washington. In some places doves are liberated at Easter, and it is quite general to fill Easter baskets with flowers, or cakes, and to make visits to renew good will among friends.

A great deal of beautiful music has been written for the Easter services, which have become elaborate occasions in the churches. Many carols that are song have been handed down by tradition and repeated from father to son. They frequently tell the New Testament story of the first Christian Easter morning when Christ rose from the tomb, and gave all human beings faith in immortality.

a wonderful game saving the day for Hershey which almost looked like a sure defeat during the first period of the game.

### HERSHEY

	Field goals	Foul	Pts. sc'd
Leibfreid, forward...	4	0	8
Snavely, forward....	6	3	15
Mumper, center.....	1	0	2
Hershey, center.....	0	0	0
Keller, guard.....	1	0	2
Saylor, guard.....	0	0	0
Early, guard.....	3	0	6
Total.....	15	3	33

### MONARCH

	Field goals	Foul	Pts. sc'd
Devine, forward.....	2	0	4
Phillips, center.....	4	3	11
Lewis, forward.....	0	0	0
McCormack, guard..	1	0	2
Rinkenback, guard...	2	1	5
Total.....	9	4	22

### HUMMELSTOWN H. S. 23, PALMYRA H. S. 21

The Hummelstown H. S. defeated the Palmyra H. S. in a closely contested game by the score of 23 to 21. The game was played during the intervals of the first game and gave quite a lot of amusement and satisfaction for the spectators by their determined playing which usually proved to get very rough. Heisey played a Star game for Palmyra. His shooting was the feature of the team. Hummel who played center for Hummelstown was undoubtedly the star of the two teams. He not only played his man but the ball as well and it was almost a sure goal whenever he got his hands on the ball. He was responsible for nineteen of the 23 points made.

Wenrich, 2; Brinser, 2; Hummel, 19, total 23. Kreider, 6; Hilbish, 0; Heisey, 15; Keggeris, 0; Snavely, 0; Horstic, 0; total, 21.

## HERSHEY WINS FAST GAME

### SCORE 33 TO 22 IN BASKET BALL CONTEST WITH MONARCHS OF HARRISBURG

The Hershey Y. M. C. A. five was given quite a surprise in their game with the Monarchs, of Harrisburg, on last Friday evening. They were not only the lightest team the local team has played this season but the fastest. With mostly the second team in the line up at the ending of the first half the score was a tie 13 to 13. Beginning with the second half Hershey started out with her usual form and her regular line-up and for a while played all around the visitors passing and shooting at will. But the little fellows would not be outdone and with an occasional rally succeeded in running up nine points during the second half against the home team's 20. Skip Hershey and Early played

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