

Easter Out-of-Doors



EAGLE ROCK, LOS ANGELES
Photo by Underwood & Underwood

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN
CHRISTIANITY has two great anniversaries each year—Christmas and Easter. Yesterday all of Christian faith celebrated the birth of Jesus. Tomorrow they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. "Death is swallowed up in victory" on Easter Day. "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

So said Jesus to His followers before He went to His death on Calvary. Later they saw Him alighting beneath the weight of the cross as He went forth from Pilate's judgment hall along the way of Sorrows to Golgotha. Still later they saw Him dying on that cross. And finally they saw Him risen from the dead on Easter Day.

The Jesus' disciples the cross symbolized the power of imperial Rome over those who offended against her. Rome stood for material achievement, for aggression. Jesus stood for spiritual things, for love, for human freedom and brotherhood. To the Christian of today Easter is a celebration of the belief that Rome was wrong and that Jesus was right. And he knows that he must carry the cross, as well as cling to the cross.

Man instinctively yearns for life beyond the grave. "Till death do us part," reads the marriage service. There are some who would have it so that not even death can part them. Wrote Robert Browning:

My soul of my soul, I shall clasp thee again,
And with God be the rest!

Many feel that if there is to be no future life for them then is this earthly life a hideous iniquity, a pitiful failure. Wrote Tennyson:

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust;
Thou madest man, he knows not why,
He thinks he was not made to die;
And Thou hast made him. Thou art just.

It seems inconceivable that man should toil upward with sweat and travail until a Lincoln could say, "With malice toward none, with charity for all" and then should come annihilation. Wrote Darwin:

It is an intolerable thought that man and all other sentient beings are doomed to complete annihilation after such a long-continued and slow process.
So the Christian of today sees in Easter the answer to the ages-old question: "If a man die, shall he live again?"

This is an old, old earth and man has lived long upon it—so long that he celebrated Easter ages before Jesus died upon the cross and rose from the dead. The Easter that man celebrated before Christianity came was an instinctive expression of his joy that winter was over and spring was on the way. To him the sun, if not God himself, was light and warmth and springing life. So at or near the vernal equinox early man celebrated the change in the seasons that renewed his slender hope on life and comfort.

Man instinctively turns to a god, if not to the God. In the beginnings of the race man saw god in light and darkness; heard god in the thunder and the wind; felt him in the manifold manifestations of nature. Perhaps most of all early man saw god in the sun that drew nearer in the spring and gave light and heat and food. So it is no wonder that modern man rejoices as of old at the coming of spring. He would sing, if he could, with Bliss Carman:

Well I know
The sun will shine again and spring come back
Her ancient, glorious, golden-flowered way,
And gladness visit the green earth once more.

For many a city man does Berton Braley speak when he sings of the tunes of the first street piano of the spring:

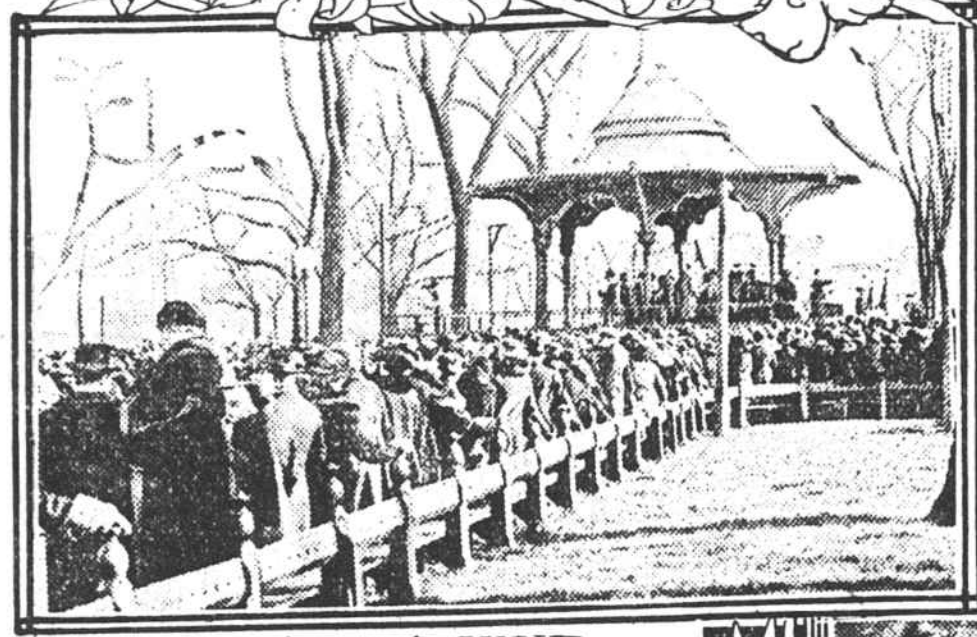
They build me a vision of meadows Elysian,
Of brooklets that babble and breezes that croon,
And wistful and tender young spring in her splendor
Comes dancing to me on the wings of a tune.

Russell Mott, a poet of long ago, spoke for all nature lovers when he wrote:

Godde helps alle good adventurers
Who love strange roads sae well,
Whose prysonne ys a city street,
Whose counting-house a celle;

Send them a safe deliveraunce,
That each may lyte his fyre,
With out the starres for gaolers
Inne the lande of hys desyre.

So it is that out-of-doors on Easter morn offers a lure for many that no church can equal. Easter morn at sunrise, should you be in Los Angeles and one of those lured by the out-of-doors, hasten to Eagle Rock park. You will find many others going your way and you will come to a vast crowd on Eagle Rock, surmounted by a cross and



CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK
Photo by Underwood & Underwood

worshiping God in His holy temple, with naught between the worshipers and His blue heaven. And if the refulgent sun seems in some sort god to you, fear not that it is disloyalty to the true God. It is but the instinct of prehistoric ages working in you. And He will not be offended.

And if you be in New York city and the lure works on you, make you way to Central park very early Easter morning. For there on the Mall shall you find a great concourse of fellow-worshipers to whom the lure was equally strong. Who will lead the worship I do not know, except that it will be some worthy leader. Last Easter morn he was the Rt. Rev. Herbert Shipman, suffragan bishop of the Protestant Episcopal diocese, former army chaplain.

Now, does the lover of Mother Nature,
Up in the mountains, high in the Rockies,
Seeing a moving blue in the aspens,
Hearing a twitter sweetly familiar,
Say to his comrade: "Lo, the first bluebird!
Spring is upon us—springtime, with Easter.
Winter is ended. Jesus is risen.
Let us go worship where shows the snow cross
High on the mountain, Holy Cross Mountain."

This Easter a few hardy spirits, able-bodied and in love with the out-of-doors, will worship on the slope of the Mount of the Holy Cross in the Colorado Rockies. Around them will be stream and lake and forest and natural scenery unsurpassed. And above them, boldly drawn in everlasting snow against the naked granite of the great peak, will be the Holy Cross in glistening white.

Next Easter morn there will be many more worshippers and thereafter the number will yearly increase. For under the Holy Cross on the slope of the mountain has been established a devotional center in the form of a camp. Thousands have come under the spell of the mountain's giant cross and thousands have asked for this devotional camp. So it is being established and developed, for the benefit of all. Both Protestants and Roman Catholics are interested. All are invited to come and worship at a shrine with, as John Masefield says,

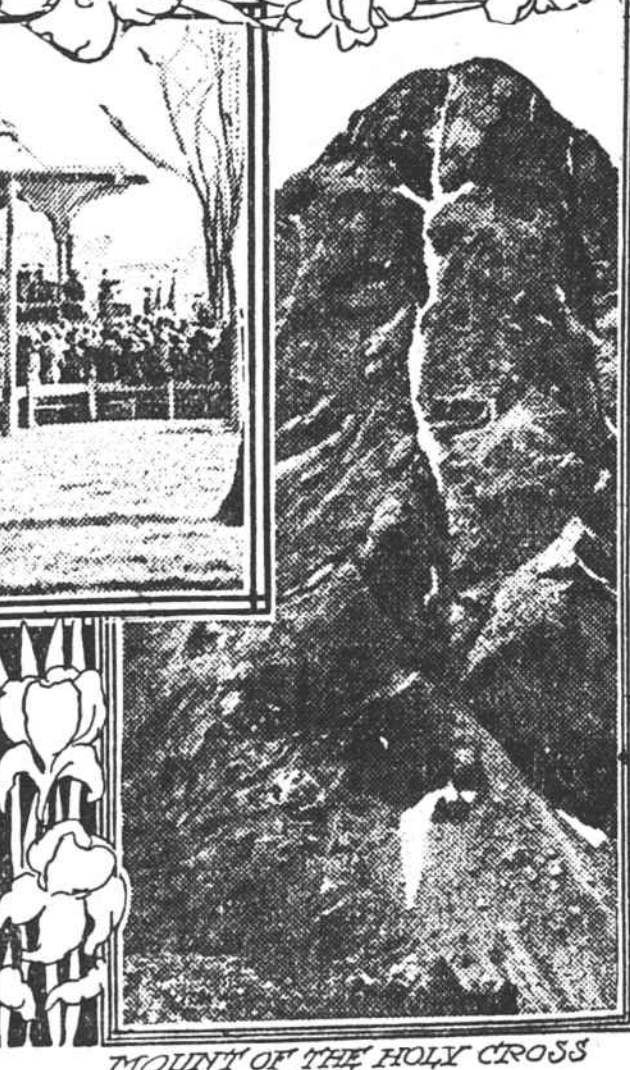
A beauty perfect, ripe, complete,
That art's own hand could only smutch
And Nature's self not better much.

Dr. Johnson wrote that the mountains were so much hopeless sterility "dismissed by nature from her care." But Dr. Johnson was wrong. All the world loves the mountains—or would, if it knew the mountains. And they are indeed lovely in the spring. Wherever there is water there are aspens and their tender green is charmingly offset by the darker green of the evergreens. Light and distance paint the scene with the gorgeousness of a painter's palette. Distance turns the greens into lilac, mauve, blue and indigo. Gorges, deep and dark, take on purple shades. The shadows cast by the moving clouds make fascinating changes in the color scheme. The sunset skies are startling in their crimson and golds. And down in the mountains is a thing of beauty and therefore a joy forever. The naked granite of the high peaks blushes ruby red under the first rays of the sun and if a peak is snow-crowned the beauty is enhanced. As the shadows lengthen or shorten on the forested slopes there is an ever-changing play of color.

Yes; Dr. Johnson was wrong. As John C. Van Dyke says in "The Mountain," "Mountains are the spots where we get once more back to nature's heart after a lifetime spent in the dreary London of the world."

The Mount of the Holy Cross (13,978) is world-famous because of its cross of snow that forms the crowning touch of its majestic beauty. The upright of the cross measures about 1,200 feet and the beam about 200 feet. Its snow is everlasting and may be seen for many a mile. The mountain itself can be seen on a clear day from Longs peak, a hundred miles to the north.

Holy Cross gives its name to the Holy Cross National forest, which is under charge of the for-



MOUNT OF THE HOLY CROSS
COLORADO

est service of the Department of Agriculture. The Mount of the Holy Cross has hitherto been little visited because of its comparative inaccessibility. In 1916, however, the forest service constructed a new trail up the side of the mountain, so that it is now possible to ride on horseback to within a mile of the summit. The starting point of this trip is Red Cliff, and the intervening distance to the peak, 12 miles, can be covered in from five to six hours under favorable weather conditions. Near the foot of the peak, where the trail leaves Cross creek, a shelter cabin has been constructed for the convenience of visitors essaying the climb. The trip from the cabin to the summit may be made on foot in from two to three hours. The vast panorama of snow-clad mountain peaks, evergreen forests, and rolling valleys which greets the eye after this arduous ascent is one of impressive grandeur.

In ascending Holy Cross to the foot of the cross the visitor passes through five different and distinct tree zones. Timberline is at 11,500 feet. And all the way up are flowers; in season the alpine meadows above timberline are most gorgeous of all with their myriad blossoms in miniature. In Rocky Mountain National park, a hundred miles to the north, have been collected and identified 289 species of flowers, 21 species of trees and flowerless shrubs and 50 species of ferns, grasses and rushes.

At Easter time on the eastern slope of the Colorado Continental Divide the flower of flowers is the pasque flower. Pascha is the Greek form of the Hebrew pesach, from pasach—to pass over. As Easter is the Christian equivalent of the Jewish Passover the flower is well named. It is one of the buttercup family and a cousin to the anemones—wind flowers. It grows in clusters that often number eight or ten blossoms. The flower stands eight or ten inches from the ground. Often the star-shaped blossoms are almost 2½ inches across. They range in color from almost purple to almost white, with a fascinating variety of shades, all of which may occur in the same cluster.

In the mountains a fall of light snow corresponds to the spring rain of the plains. In my commonplace book I find this, under date of Easter Sunday:

"A foot or so of light snow fell last night. At 10:30 this morning I took a broom, a basket and a long knife and started out to gather my Easter flowers.

"Easter flowers! Certainly. I know an open space near my log cabin where were growing thousands of pasque flowers and many buttercups and here and there a violet. I had wandered among them before the snow came, enjoying their beauty to the full.

"I plodded off through the snow to the 'Kit Carson Corner'—close to the camp of that famous frontiersman on a beaver-trapping expedition in the Fifties. There I began sweeping off the snow in zigzag fashion. Soon I found pasque flowers in such numbers that I grew hard to please and filled my basket with the largest and most perfect. They were none the worse for the snow. But the buttercups and violets were forlorn. The next day the snow was all gone and the field was brilliant with pasque flowers, unharmed by their adventure."

WANTS TO STOP BUILDING PLAN

HOOVER RECOMMENDS STATES AND CITIES TO SLOW DOWN IN WORK.

LABOR IN FULL EMPLOYMENT

Think That Public Construction Work Should Be Done When There is Unemployment.

Washington.—Government building and construction work now under way should be slowed down and the initiation of new projects delayed, Secretary Hoover recommended to President Harding in a letter made public in order that they may be pushed forward at some later period when there is less private construction activity and need for alleviating or preventing unemployment.

The commerce secretary in a report made at the President's request suggested that state and municipal governments consider the adoption of a similar policy, which accords with suggestions resulting from the national unemployment conference of 1921 that government projects of all sorts be utilized as an employment reserve, so far as possible, by which demand for labor and materials might be thrown into markets during periods of depression.

Mr. Hoover said that a survey of the situation in the construction trades had brought out several fundamental conclusions which he listed as follows:

The year 1922 was a year of very large employment and activity in the construction trades and at the end of the year stocks of construction materials were much reduced. Since the beginning of the present year there has been even more activity than in the same period last year and the contracts let in the past few months are of larger volume than any hitherto entered into in a similar period. Advance orders for construction materials are upon a very large scale.

Labor in the construction trades and in the manufacture of material is not apt at full employment, but there is actually a shortage in many directions.

Transportation facilities available for the building materials are fully loaded and almost constant car shortages are complained of with subsequent interruption in production.

"In conclusion," said Mr. Hoover's letter, "from all this it is that, at least for the next several months, the trades will be fully occupied in private construction all of which is generally needed by the country.

"For the government to enter into competition at the present moment will give no additional employment to labor and no additional production of materials but must in the broad sense in the end displace that much private construction. The governments, nationally and locally, are in a much better position to hold construction work in abeyance than are private concerns, and are in better position to speed up in times of less demand as we did in the depression as the result of the unemployment conference. We can by this means contribute something to a more even flow of employment not only directly in construction work but in the material troubles.

"I would recommend, therefore, that you direct the different divisions of the government to initiate no new work that is not eminently necessary to carry on the immediate functions of the government and that there should be a slowing down of work in progress, so much as comports with real economy construction, until after there is a relaxation in private demands."

Cottonseed Crushed Shows Gain.

Washington.—Cottonseed crushed in the seven-month period, August 1 to February 28, amounted to 3,815,861 tons, compared with 2,631,751 tons for the same period a year ago the census bureau announced.

Production manufactured during the period and on hand February 28 were:

Crude oil produced 860,054,846 pounds, compared with 806,064,157 and on hand 83,866,668 pounds, compared with 68,995,686.

Cake and meal 1,288,790 tons, compared with 1,184,383, and on hand 198,739 tons, compared with 215,293.

Linters 502,226 bales, compared with 348,793, and on hand 74,431 bales, compared with 154,745.

Exports of oil, cake and meal, and linters, were not available, department officials say.

Steel Output is Growing.

New York.—Reports of increased business and hesitating speculative markets were features of the past week in trade and finance. All signs point to the continuance of the industrial revival, which has now reached a point where the volume of the country's production probably exceeds anything on record.

Steel output is still growing and steel prices are still rising and railroad traffic is extraordinarily large; but the gains are not limited to the heavy industries.

Community Building

PARKS OF DISTINCT WORTH

Boost Property Value—Wise City Planning Also Factor of Health, Authority Says.

Dr. George F. Künz of New York, president of the American Scenic and Historical Preservation society, produced a mass of evidence to show how greatly the presence of any beautiful natural feature such as a park increases the value of surrounding property in dollars and cents. After discussing the case of Central park, Doctor Künz continued:

"If, when the plans for the city of New York above Tenth street were being prepared, there had been a landscape architect, or some one with judgment, he could have used the various ponds for small lakes, he would not have eradicated every hill, but would here and there have given us a small park, and would not have laid out the city on the lines of a checkerboard, with a loss of both beauty and accessibility.

"Instead of giving us a few avenues and many streets, he would have reversed the order and given us many avenues and fewer streets, with the result that traffic would not have been rendered difficult for many years and almost impossible as it is today. Moreover, as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, it would have meant that two or three times as many homes as now would have had sunlight all the day, whereas at the present time in many of the side streets the sun is never seen and the streets are filled with ice, and the death rate of the entire city has been notably increased by the little knowledge shown of what New York was to be in the future."—New York Times.

PLEA FOR WELL-KEPT ROADS

Neglected Streets Not Alone Unhealthy, but Create Bad Impression on the Visitor.

There are 15,450 "incorporated places" in America. Of these 15,450 cities, towns and villages only 2,800 exceed a population of 2,500 people each; yet these 2,800 "urban places" contain 54,000,000 people, while 12,000 "rural places" contain 9,000,000. Nearly all the 9,000,000 residents of the 12,000 "rural places" live on unpaved streets, and the same holds true of a large percentage of the residents of "urban places." There are no statistics to show how many miles of streets there are in the 15,400 "incorporated places," so that we cannot estimate accurately the percentage of unpaved streets.

Even without such statistics to indicate the extent of unpaved streets, it would be evident enough to any one who travels much that most of our small towns are inadequately paved. Mud half the year and dust the other half are characteristics of their streets.

When we grow unduly elated over our progress in paving our highways such facts as these should bring us to earth—yes, literally to earth—to the dirt streets that are typical of most of our small towns and villages and also of many of our larger cities.

What the City Needs.

A revival of morality and old-fashioned honesty is the most urgent need of our American life today.

The explanation offered of the horrible condition in Russia is that men could not keep up with the rapid developments of civilization and, dropping behind the procession, they are slowly reverting to barbarism.

Our trouble in America is that in the midst of the wonderful scientific and mechanical development of 1922 integrity of character is too lightly esteemed and dishonesty in public life is too easily condoned by the voters.

Our municipal voters have quite frequently demonstrated that their standard of accountability has changed but little from that of the men who acclaimed Robin Hood as a hero about five and a half centuries ago. It mattered not to them that he was a thief and an outlaw, so long as he gave to the poor a part of what he stole.—Commercial Bulletin.

Home-Owning Always Worth While.

Owning a home is one of the most satisfactory forms of investment which can possibly be undertaken. As with an investment of any kind, it should be entered into only after due and sufficient thought, and one must be careful not to undertake more than can be performed. Ordinarily, however, the objective to be gained is of sufficient importance to justify considerable effort, and even making great sacrifices to accomplish the ownership of a home will be worth while in the end.

Good for Old Ladies.

The other day a woman, ninety-two years old, went to the Old Ladies' home at Terre Haute. She was so brisk and cheery, despite her deafness, Later she was visited by one of her old neighbors, who asked her how she liked the home.

And this was her answer: "Well, this is the nicest, friendliest bunch of people I ever met. I think every woman ought to live at an old ladies' home for a time just to learn that every one loved her at sight."