



Easter — Its Origin And Significance

Easter - the very name brings new faith and hope to a troubled world. Its origin began in the legends and folklore of the so-called pagans. William Bede, an English monk, the most eminent scholar of his day and often referred to as "the Father of English Learning" provides what seems to be the earliest record of the origin of the name. It began as the Festival of "Ostara", ancient Teutonic goddess of Spring.

Most of the historic Easter customs can be traced to the early races and tribes of Indo-European origin. They gathered to celebrate the beginning of new life, the budding of the trees, the awakening of flowers, the passing of winter, and the coming of spring. There were tournaments and games and a holiday spirit prevailed into the night when huge bonfires were burned and often an effigy of winter was thrown into the flames amid much rejoicing, while the ancient Greeks and Romans gathered at the time of the vernal equinox to rejoice and celebrate their belief in the resurrection of "Attis", the God of Vegetation.

(Continued on page 2.)

Hawaiian Hula On The Quarter Deck

Hawaii in the moonlight!!! Bare feet on the teak!!! Music over a hatch!!

Last Tuesday night the Bray troupe of Hawaiian entertainers came aboard at seven thirty and gave us one of the most interesting and entertaining shows it has ever been our privilege to witness on board a ship. Under the ample lighting facilities afforded by several spot lights every one got to see the transition and development of the hula from the days before Kamehameha and the missionaries, through the advent and addition of musical instruments in Hawaii to it, up to the present ultra modern hula dancing.

In between numbers that unbeatable quartette of mountaineer singers from the Ozarks gave us their interpretation of "The Martins and McCoys". Even the performers were impressed. Then the Hawaiians swung into some fast and humorous versions of the hula and we were impressed!

One dance by a petite Hawaiian lass was performed mostly for the benefit of one, namely Worthington of the shipfitters. A red beet would have seemed wan and pale compared with the fiery red which suffused his face, but it gave everyone a big laugh.

The best act came when the dancers went out among the audience to select men as hula partners. Hill, colored messboy, was the first to succumb to the charms of one of the dancers, and he "hula'd" bravely, unconsciously putting a few jig steps in the dance.

(Continued on page 4.)

Interesting Facts Concerning Hawaii

Honolulu is the largest city in the world — because Palmyra Islets, 950 miles south are a part of the City of Honolulu.

Kawaiaohao Church — 'Westminster Abbey of Hawaii' — is constructed of coral blocks hewn from the reef on the outskirts of the harbor.

Captain Cook named the islands "Sandwich Islands", in honor of the Earl of Sandwich, head of the British Admiralty in 1779. Later the group was named the "Hawaiian Islands" after the largest island of the group, Hawaii.

Kamehameha I conquered the Island of Hawaii as the result of local wars. In 1790 he conquered Maui, the 2nd largest island of the group, and in 1795 journeyed to the Island of Oahu with a number of canoes to invade it. He became then the ruler of the three largest islands, and by establishing such a great moral ascendancy over them the island of Kauai was later peaceably ceded to him. He is called the "Napoleon of the Pacific", and deeds of the great ruler have been recorded in song and story.

There is not a snake or poisonous reptile in the islands. Visitors can go anywhere in the territory without fear of deadly reptiles of any kind. The bite of the centipede, while about as painful as a bee-sting, is not dangerous.

Near Honolulu torch fishing is done on the reef of the Ala Moana road, Waikiki, and off the shore at the Waialae district.

—: THE BLUE BONNET :—

A weekly publication of the ship's company of the U.S.S. Houston, Captain G. N. Barker, U.S.N., Commanding and Commander C. A. Bailey, U.S.N., Executive Officer.

Editor, Lieut. (jg) E. A. McDonald.

Assistant Editor: Ensign J.P.M. Johnston

Associate Editor: Stefan Sivak, Jr., SK2c

Associate Editor: W.J. Bannen, Sea. 1c

Cartoonist: W.C. Ridge

Circulation: John Boris, Y3c

Printer: R. L. Beckwith, Sea.1c

16 April, 1938.

A Tale Of Two Mess Cooks

Once upon a time, in a very great and very famous Navy, there were two young and handsome mess cooks. These mess cooks worked side by side in a compartment on the starboard side of a cruiser, and every day at mess gear they served up huge platters of food to the ravenous hordes which descended upon them.

Now, one of these mess cooks was a smart young fellow, who knew all the answers and could tell you at once just what the heroine of the latest novel was going to do next, and boy! oh, boy! how the ladies fell for his line. Nearly every evening he got into his dress blues and fared forth to "give the town a treat," and when he was around, the fun was sure to start.

The other mess cook was a stupid sort of a lad. As soon as supper was finished, he used to break out a book and read until time for the movies, and every now and then he handed in a training course to his Division Officer. The smart fellow made all manner of fun of this poor dolt, because anyone with half an eye could see that there weren't going to be any rates given out for another six months so what was the use of working one's self to the bone for no reason at all ?

Along about the end of the month, the Executive Officer suddenly told the Division Officer that there was a rate available, and although the officer was surprized, he broke out his record book and looked over the names of the various men in his division.

Easter — Its Origin And Significance

In Bavaria, in the Fifteenth century, Easter was a laughing and playful festival and the clergymen told their congregations humorous stories which they had gathered during the year. This quaint custom prevailed until Pope Clement X forbade it about 1670.

In France, during this same period and later, Easter Monday was the day for great handball tournaments throughout the country. On Easter Monday wives had the right to strike their husbands.

In England a man could seize any woman he saw and after lifting her three times could demand either a kiss or a silver sixpence. There were also games, forfeits and penalties and the loser could buy his or her way out only with Easter eggs.

For centuries the Russians and the Greeks made Easter a day of great sporting events, with elaborate religious parades and ceremonies.

The origin of Easter eggs seems to have been lost in remote antiquity but it is believed that the custom grew out of the ancient acceptance of the egg as a symbol of rebirth.

Early Christianity revised and adopted many of these customs. In Medieval times the importance of fixing the proper date for Easter was so urgent that great scholars and learned men often crossed Europe to consult with others or examine ancient records and documents. For the first two centuries of the Christian era it was celebrated by most Eastern Christians on the day of the Jewish Passover, the fourteenth day of the First Jewish month; while the Western Christians celebrated on the Sunday following the fourteenth day. In the year of 325 A.D., the Christian

Alongside the name of the "smart" fellow was a great big blank, but the poor stupid man had a 3.69 behind his name. Now the Division Officer must have been pretty slow too, because he didn't realize what a swell person the first man was, he was just dumb enough to want some man who knew something in his division, and he didn't seem to give a darn whether a fellow could tell a funny story or not. There are a lot of officers just

churches met in council at Nicaea, in Asia Minor and ruled in favor of the Western Christian Church, but the present movable Easter date was not officially established until 1582 after the Gregorian Calendar had been arranged by Pope Gregory XIII.

Thus, it was decided that Easter, the most important feast date on the church calendar, should be on the First Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon which happened upon or next after the Twenty-first of March, the vernal equinox. If the Paschal Full Moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday. The Paschal Full Moon is the Fourteenth day of the Lunar Month.

The Passover according to historians, goes back to the year 1491 B.C. when the Jews were delivered from oppression in the land of Egypt. It was that great historical event just preceding the exodus from Egypt. The description of it is found in the Bible in the Twelfth chapter of the Book of Exodus.

Likewise, St. Matthew describes for us the event of over nineteen centuries ago when the thousands of people who flocked to Jerusalem, drawn by some strange and profound power and feeling of excitement, trembled with terror as darkness descended in the afternoon. Dust clouds filled the air and the ground underfoot heaved and shook convulsively and even the Roman soldiers fled with terror.

No other day has ever meant or promised so much to mankind.

To-morrow, the shadow of sorrow will have passed and the world will enter once more into the spirit and promise of Easter. The Easter parade will go its joyous way, everyone happy in the coming of spring and inspired by the eternal and inscrutable miracles of God.

like that, but whether we like it or not, the second mess cook got the job.

This is just a fairy story of course. Somebody told it to me, and I thought you'd like to get a laugh too about the ignorant fellow who is now drawing good pay and is now telling the "smart" mess cook to bear a hand and get the java on the table.

FLASH — "A" DIVISION WINS INTERDIVISION COMPETITION.



SOME dirty outcast from some low type of society has kidnapped our MARTHA. No, not the one from the corner bar, nor the little girl with pigtails from your grammar school days, but the one we used to hear over the speaker system on the quarter deck in the evenings before movies. The party or parties who did, with malice aforethought take, destroy, hide, or otherwise make away with our favorite, MARTHA, deserve to hang to the port yard and to be shot at on a dark night by a coolie. PLEASE BRING IT BACK !!!

LAMBERT, Cpl., and Gossage, WT, are striking for Gunner's Mate it seems. Freeman was holding Field Day in the armory and along came Gunner Selby, who inquired where Herkie got all the hired help. To tell the truth it seems they are just naturally ambitious and couldn't hold in any longer, they had to help somebody and that seemed the natural place to do it.

TUESDAY in the one o'clock boat we were going ashore and it got quite rough and the lads were taking a few over the bow. It was getting to be a case of "Duck when you see the whites of their eyes," when Hank Cromwell, MM1c, took one that was intended for all hands, and he really absorbed it all. Tough luck Hank. His last words were: "Who said you had to stay aboard ship to get your clothing dirty?"

SPIKE Mullane received quite a hand from the crowd when he passed the word for the messcooks to lay below to feed the crew with the refreshments from the galley and bake shop. Baldy Davis didn't seem to like the idea of losing his ringside seat to the chiefs but wait till you make the buttons there Stinky.

HAVE you seen that fine Platoon Sergeant of the Houston detachment, Sam Johnstone, wheeling the Ship's Service Bus on the way around the Island to and from Honolulu? I must say Sam is no new hand at the wheel, and does a good job herding that thing around. Comes close enough to the posts of the Main Gate over here to shave them if they had whiskers. Some of the younger fellows better watch out if he goes after the ladies the way he does that bus.

MOHN and Schumacher of the After Engine Room take the prize for the week. They have been, it was revealed to me, passing the time away on the eight to twelve watch down there, in the most modern manner: TRUCKIN'. They truck from eight till eleven and then they turn to and clean up for the watch to relieve them. I've heard of some good ones, but that is about the best.

BY THE way, Little Ocko is going to see if he can find the keys to the Blue Bonnet Contribution Box and if and when I do, I will want you fellows to take a hand.. Put the doings of the division in the box and we'll be glad to use it. It is a much nicer paper if all hands have hands in it than just a half dozen or so. Show that real old Houston Spirit.

IT COMES to mind that we ought to say something in a way of Thanks to the lads from the Army Base alongside, for the grand manner in which they co-operated in making the Happy Hour the Huge Success it was. The boys of the band were, undoubtedly, a major part of the show. Again, Thank You.

DUE TO the fact that he is becoming quite adept at shifting from one uniform to the other it is rumored that Ralph Nelson Crego, of the Rover Boys, is going to apply for a job as a model at the Naval Clothing Factory. He says he has gained a lot of experience on dress rehearsals on the Main Deck Aft recently and feels quite equal to anything a model has to do.

SEND THE BLUE BONNET HOME

Happy Hour A Smash Hit

The happy hour started at seven thirty with the visiting Army and its band on the port side and all the Ship's Company manning every available view point on all sides. The Army band did a lot to make the whole a success. Old songs, Old Grey Bonnet, and others brought to mind the good old days. When the "Merry Go Round Broke Down" began the guitar player then broke a string. Completely unabashed he produced a composite instrument—flute, piccolo, and whistle. What notes! The music goes down and around and comes out HERE! What chance has a Bos'n mate? The band and happy hour got applause from ship and nearby shore.

Lt. (jg) McDonald explained the rules of wrestling and the bouts got underway. They were the finals of the bouts that we had in Lahaina. Prizes were issued to both winners and runner-ups.

The wrestling was refereed by Lt. (jg) McDonald and judged by Ens. Ely and "Headlock" Wellbourn. 'Headlock' did the announcing in fine style. Two bouts were won by a default, Drover of A div. and Davis of H&E div. Keimel of A div. and Saunders of F div. had it out, Keimel winning by a fall in 1 minute and 30 seconds. In the next bout Wilkie, A div. won an 11 sec. fall over F div's. Williams of the bright gold swim trunks. First division's Adams entered against Ryan of M div. Ryan knew what to do and how to do it but Adams was the stronger. Adams was at a disadvantage at times not knowing what to do

(Continued on page 4.)

HATCH, CQM, is quite the fellow to be wearing the fancy pajamas, and demonstrated his ability to bring home the bacon while we were at Lahaina. He was quite ready to pounce on any fellow who showed up in ordinary 'dungarees' as he called them. Well, he's quiet now. Dutton, CBM, went ashore here in Honoulu and the pair he brought back were a sight for sore eyes. The loudest tones of the most brilliant colors he could find, and him a Boatswain's Mate. MY ! MY !

Happy Hour

(From Page 3.)

with Ryan when he got him down. "Little Andy" Anderson, the fighting marine, downed Martin of the C&N in 1 min. 4 secs. The last match was another fast one, Shoemaker, M div., putting Coats, 4th div. on the deck before Coats knew about it. The Army band serenaded the Anchor Watch as it rigged the boxing ring.

The boxing was refereed by Ens. Ely, and judged by Lts. (jg) Dibrell & McDonald, and CBM Dutton. Seconds were Adams, in one corner and Harris, Pvt., in the other, assisted by Mahl and Martin of the first division and others. Headlock was the announcer as before.

The first bout was a lightweight, with Houston, 1st div. and Kohler of the H&E. Houston was plainly the better man and several times displayed excellent sportsmanship by not murdering Kohler when he had him in the ropes. Houston allowed the lad to go through all three rounds and took the decision at the end. Nice going Houston. The next was between Christensen of the 2nd and Crow of H&E. Also a lightweight bout, the boys showed plenty of spirit and skill. Crow was quite flashy while Christensen was reserved until the time came and he cut loose to stop the rushes of the E div. man. The third round was fast and furious and ended with Christen-

sen winning a decision. Next we had Wishard of the R div. and Dalton of the B. Wishard was a good bit rangier and taller than the boiler room sailor, having the advantage over him. Dalton was full of fighting spirit and got under the other fellow's guard for some well registered hits. Wishard won a decision. Next on the card were Haratyk of the S and Teschnor of the F. Teschnor led off with a few well directed left jabs that made the lad wonder what he had run up against. They had a few clinches the latter part of the first and the first part of the second rounds but as the second got underway they got together on the port side of the ring and had a slugging match that has been unequaled in the bouts to date. It left both lads so tired that in the third round they held each other up in the ring and exchanged a few when the opportunity came along. The final bout was between Pierce of the A and Dalton of the third. Pierce took some that seemed like a mule kicking him in the jaw and sat down a couple of times. He was on the deck about as often as he was on his feet. Some sort of will power or spirit kept the lad in there going till the end of the third round when the two sat down to have the gloves pulled off and hear the decision of the final bout of the Inter-divisional boxing matches. It was the end of some mighty good bouts and those who worked hard to get them up had something they could be proud of.

Case Of The Dog Biscuit

It seems that a certain Chief Boatswain's Mate, namely Dutton, is about to change his rate to Chief Commissary Steward. He has taken over the duty of supplying the CPO Mess with food for the canine element. At the suggestion of frolicing Proimos, CBM, and Shaw, CMM, Dutton returned to the ship with a box of Dog Biscuits. They were to grace the plate of Franklin, CWT, and sure enough they were there the next day. Proimos made a speech to the effect that the Doctor had advised no feeding of pork during our stay in the tropics, and so the biscuits were in order. That seems to have aroused the ire of the water-tender and Proimos said he thought he'd jump over the table. It all started with Franklin and Proimos calling each other by the names of 'Poochy' and 'Sniffer', respectively. It ended when the CPO messcooks cleaned up the mess and the biscuits went to the pantry. There Powell, the marine dish washer, ate eight of them thinking they were a sort of cookie. About that time Proimos came looking for them and the marine would not believe he had eaten dog food. It was only after the chief went and got the box and showed him the label that he really believed it was dog biscuits instead of fancy cookies he'd been consuming.

A Sailor Thinks

"Why did I ever pick her up? ? Dumb, that's what I am. But she worked on my sympathy. Believe it or not, Beneath this rough exterior there beats a heart of . .

Ha ! Patience is being rewarded. Her eyes are closing—hmmm. Still suspicious. It's funny how we sit here night after night—she's watching me—I apparently taking no notice. I've been unsuccessful up until now—I've tried every approach—but no. Just as soon as I think I've got her, she slips through my fingers. But tonight . .

Maybe if I take it slowly—you know, as if I'm just getting an ashtray—hmmm. She's breathing evenly enough to be asleep—well, just to make sure—she's so blame tricky—I'll wait a few seconds or so—not a movement—wheww! The closer I get the more I know she'll wake up in time to thwart me again—Careful—HA ! I'VE GOT HER !

Struggle on you pest.

The place for a cat is outside—IF you can find the right approach."

—The Log.



That the first men of European stock to set foot on Hawaii were Spaniards who were shipwrecked off Kona in 1527.

* * *

That the U.S. assumed the Hawaiian national debt of four million dollars in 1898 and Hawaii was created a Territory of the United States.

* * * * *

That Hawaii, "the melting pot of the Pacific", is the outstanding laboratory of racial assimilation in the entire world. Here Chinese, Koreans, Japanese rub elbows with Filipinos, native Hawaiians, Portuguese and members of other European countries.

Hawaiian Hula

(From Page 1.)

Did you watch the dancers hands? Weren't they expressive? Or did you watch their hands?

All in all it was a great show, and the Houston wishes to thank the chamber of Commerce of Honolulu for making possible these Hawaiian acts aboard our ship.