

If all the celebrations in Christendom in this wide wide world Christmas ranks first on the top of the list, and in many places and countries, Easter is next in line. However Easter has lost a lot of old time flavor

Many senior citizens can recall when the biggest thrill among boys and girls was to find out who could eat the greatest number of eggs and it was not uncommon for some youngsters to pepper and salt and swallow as many as half-a-dozen eggs and this would be a real challenge today. The eggs were not inspected and graded.

Ten cents a dozen was the price but gradually the price was upped and 'hen's fruit' is today almost a luxury. According to storekeepers the days of buying ungraded eggs have gone and although eggs are still sold by the dozen, they are also sold by the pound.

At one time brown eggs were a common commodity but they are reported to be as "scarce as hen's teeth". Incidentally how many teeth has a Plymouth Rock?

As will be noticed the knowledge of the writer regarding eggs is very limited.

Away back, many boys knew more about collecting banty eggs, and as the name suggests these eggs were very small. Memory flashes back to the days when farm wives, who attended the hens, at times placed a china egg in the nest because the sitting hen often broke the egg shells when squatting on her nest.

Hens were not too smart. At times they built their nests in the most unusual places but they were likely to give the secret away after they dropped eggs and then cackled in excitement.

To the town boy Easter was an occasion when it came to eggs, especially the beautiful and sweet tasting chocolate coated eggs in the grocery store. For a few extra pennies a boy could buy an egg decorated with a white hard candy concoction. The eggs are a popular sales item today, especially ones filled with cream.

Remember the time when some grocers had live 'Easter' bunnies caged in the store window, just for Easter? They were cute and always attracted passersby. Today in the larger centres Easter eggs can be purchased and the name of a boy or girl placed on the shell in neat white letters.

Gone are the days when it was common for church choirs to present Easter Cantatas, beautiful arrangements. Few church choirs tackle the "Hosannah" chorus. Easter music is wonderful in these modern days but Easter anthems and solos were inspiring when rendered by choirs and soloists in the past.

The Writer is not passing over the idea that Easter music is not the finest today but in some respects the modern sacred anthems and vocal solos of this era in the opinion of many "do not hold a candle" to use a vernacular saying, to the beautiful solos, duets, quartets and choruses of the days gone by. Truly we are living in a different age.