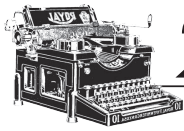


EDITORIAL



20 YEARS AGO

From *The New Tanner* - April 09, 1998
from the desk of the late Hartley Coles

An Easter Story

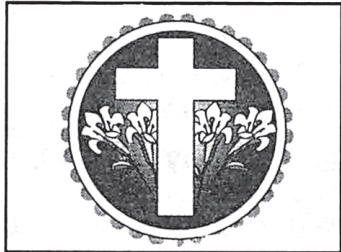
Interviewed last year on his anniversary in broadcasting Larry King, the red braces host of Larry King Live, was asked if there was anyone else he would like to interview on his show. King, who is Jewish, replied, yes, he wished he could interview God so he could ask if He had a son.

An astute broadcaster, King knew that history would have been entirely different if Jesus Christ had not been born.

This week Christians here observe Holy Week which began on Palm Sunday when the people of Jerusalem welcomed Christ into their city, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna to the son of David," a welcome fit for a king. In a few days the same people who had welcomed him were among those who turned on the same Man. And watched as the Romans crucified Him.

Christians in the hundreds of millions around the globe commemorate those events with the sorrow of Good Friday. Then they celebrate the triumphal feast of Easter when they believe Jesus rose from the dead. They believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Since Easter falls at the same time as Passover among the Jews, early Christians knew Easter as "Paschal" time, the Greek word "Pascha" meaning "Passover."



Easter is called a moveable feast because the date can change from year to year. Easter Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 21st of March among western Christians. For Orthodox Christians, however, who still follow the old Julian calendar, it comes two weeks later.

A controversy about the right time to celebrate Easter has been recorded by Eusebius, an early Christian writer in the year 190 A.D. A diversity already existed as early as 70 years before between those in Asia Minor, who kept Easter on the 14th of Nisan, the Jewish Passover, and the Pope and the bishops of the church, who wanted it on Sunday, the day Christ rose from the dead.

Today those controversies, which were once fervently argued, are not so important in the public domain. Easter, in the secular view, is a time for feasting and honouring the Easter bunny. Good Friday is often just another holiday, a term which oddly enough derives from "holy day."

The word "Easter" itself is an Anglo-Saxon word from the Teutonic "Easter," an ancient German goddess of light, which certainly has no connection with the Christian Easter, outside of being only the time of year signifying the arrival of the Spring equinox. Other customs which originated in the dim past include the use of eggs which symbolized germinating new life. Buns which represented the fruits of the earth were also used during the Equinox. The early Church viewed these as harmless symbols, adding a cross to the buns from which we get our hot cross buns. Christian symbols were painted on eggs and it became an art form known to Ukrainians as "pysanky."

When Christians around the world crowd into churches during Holy Week and Easter they are not celebrating the arrival of the Easter Bunny, nor the rites of Spring. They are celebrating the central belief of Christianity, that Jesus rose from the dead. Even C and E (Christmas and Easter) Christians attach importance to it, beyond the cultural.

This has been a stumbling block for many, not just in this skeptical age, but through the centuries. Usually at Easter the secular press gives much publicity to those who deny the physical resurrection of Jesus and scant heed to those who defend it. Yet belief in the actual physical resurrection was certainly essential to the early Christians. It was certainly essential to St. Paul, who wrote: "If there is not resurrection from the dead then even Christ did not rise: and if Christ did not rise, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain."

The debate continues almost two thousand years after the events in Palestine, showing that Easter still has profound meaning for those who follow the way of the cross. As Larry King observed, it is still one of the central questions of our time.

LOOKING BACK

By: Scott Brooks

It was once common to wear your "Easter best", and Acton residents would purchase their Easter clothing from local merchants. Pictured is an advertisement for Nielsen's Clothing, offering a wide selection of Easter attire, from Acton Free Press; April 7, 1971. Photo Credit: Acton Free Press / HHPL Archives.



The new Royals



By
Angela Tyler

I've been checking my mail regularly the past week or so. I know it's just a matter of time. I mean really...of course it's in the mail...right? Yes folks, last week the invitations for Prince Harry and Ms. Meghan Markle's wedding were sent out...all 2,640 invitees have their invitations in the mail and I am patiently waiting for mine to arrive.

I make no effort to hide my fondness of the Prince. He's the perfect mix of a bit o'trouble mixed with an incredibly kind and compassionate side courtesy of his mother. He's a handsome young man with the world at his fingertips—a gorgeous bride-to-be and wanting to do good in the world with the title and lifestyle he was born into.

Both he and his brother are encompassing the "new Royals". Considering what he and his brother had experienced in their younger years, it's quite remarkable that they embrace any form of public life.

I love this next generation of Royalty. They want as normal as a life as they can get, yet at the same time realize that they will never have what we would

consider normal. They use the life they were born into, not a life they chose, to bring forward causes they want to help. They go beyond proper protocol—sometimes, like with Harry in his younger years, a little too much—and do like their mother did. They reach out to real life everyday people. They talk to us. They hug those in crisis. They listen and learn and ask questions. Many of us remember that picture of their mother wearing "civilian clothes" holding the hand of an AIDS patient with compassion and true concern. Even though it was only a few decades ago, it was a ground-breaking move for a member of the Royal family to behave in that manner.

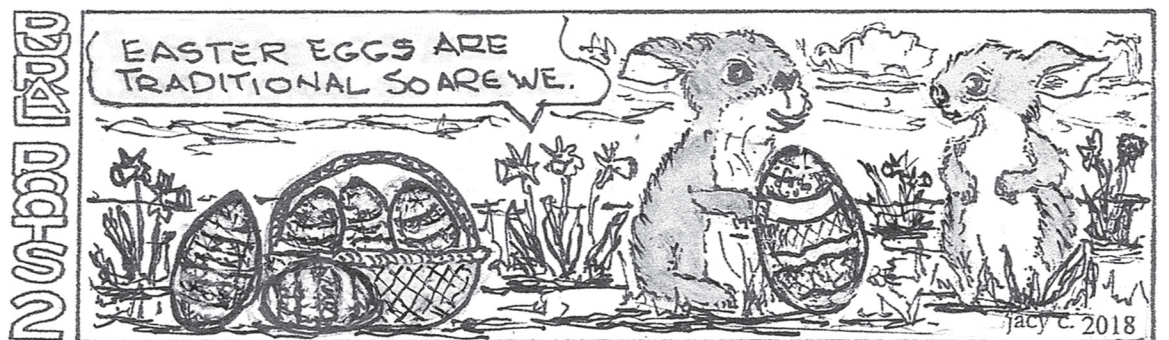
Now we have the next generation. These are the future leaders of the Commonwealth. These are the people who millions will look to for strength, guidance, answers and to exemplify their life based on what this next

generation is demonstrating. I have to say I think our future is looking good based on what the young Royals are showing the world.

They care about their family both immediate and their elders. They are hands on with parenting and education of their own children. They respect the "pomp and circumstance" of their legacy yet, by the same token, they marry for love. They embrace social justice and work to bring awareness to causes they are passionate about. They reach out to every-day folk and work to unify our world.

I'm really liking this generation, and I really think this generation is showing our Queen a few things because she is really rocking it lately, especially considering she's 91-years-old. I know a lot of people think the Monarchy is obsolete. However, maybe instead of being opposed to it, we can embrace this transformation.

I'll keep checking my mailbox every day in anticipation, but either way, I'll still be anxiously awaiting to see the big wedding in person or on television.



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