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CEDAR GROVE

(Thursday, March 19)

A treat to gladden the heart of an Irishman could be had for the asking in Albert Booth's greenhouse on the 17th of March. The sunshine of a beautiful spring day shone on row upon row of the greenest lettuce this side of Ireland itself. And, during a chin wag with Albert, you could pluck a radish or a sprig of parsley if you felt so inclined. Neatly tucked between the rows of salad were thousands of seedlings thriving beautifully and getting themselves all ready for the garden. I was sure there must be some secret to growing such healthy and vigorous plants and I asked Albert what it was. "You got to talk 'em into it," was the reply which, coupled with the twinkle in his eye, sounds Irish in itself.

Another harbinging of spring

comes up on the 27th of March when the Community Club is holding its spring dance of old time squares, Roberts and Rye Waltzes. Mr. Roy Clifton of Toronto, a man with a repertoire of over 400 calls will be on hand as an instructor to help the novices figure out what is going on. Some of our local talented musicians will also be there to assist Mr. Clifton. It should be a real old tyme happy tyme. This is your invitation so keep the 27th open for a shindig.

The Young People's are hard at work rehearsing their play for the Drama Festival which is right around the corner. The plays this year will all be in the religious category. Cedar Grove has chosen "The Great Choice" which is a story of the third great war, and begin their competition with Markham on the 28th of Mar. On April the 18th the finalists will compete in Markham, no matter where they come from.

There was only one local winner in the second to last euehre in the present series held last Monday night. The rest came from far and wide and were: Elizabeth Hollinger, Rouge Hill; Mrs. Goddard, Milliken; Mrs. Ross Jarvis, Orillia; Alvin Klinck, Stouffville; Gordon Dimma and Murray Brandon, Box Grove. Two weeks from last Monday will see the end of the series, the final winners and the grand prize.

Incidentally, if there is any doubt in your mind that spring is here to stay, drop in at the school some afternoon. The evidence is everywhere. Branches of trees beautifully bedecked with egg-shell blossoms and many-colored birds stand out in bright array and there is a great variety of lawn decorations painted and spiked all ready to dress up the school yard. The children have made all these things, of course, and there is everything from a proud and pompous white rooster to a little pink pig.

Mrs. L. C. Scott with group one in charge opened her home for the March meeting of the W.M.S. The president, Mrs. A. G. Little, was in the

VICTORIA SQUARE

(Thursday, March 19)
Sap's a'running! Some of the farmers tapped their maple trees on Saturday.
The W.M.S. held an enjoyable meeting Wednesday afternoon of last week at the home of Mrs. Westbrook with twenty-three ladies present. The study book was taken by Mrs. R. Boynton. Mrs. R. Glover and Mrs. Westbrook. Following the meeting dainty refreshments were served by the hostess.

Miss Dorothy Hooper of Buttonville spent Sunday with Miss Marion Nichols. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Large and Margaret of Toronto spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. V. Westbrook.
Mr. R. E. Sanderson and Miss Mabel Sanderson had Sunday evening dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chadwick and Karen.
Mrs. Collins and Miss Aurey Collins of Toronto spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Willows.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thompson of Weston. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bracey of Toronto spent Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton and family. Com. "Around the World" with Gordon and Jeanne Precious, a thrilling travelogue with superb colour pictures. Friday, March 27, 8:15 p.m. in Victoria Square United Church, sponsored by the Married Couples Group. Tickets may be procured from the members of the group.

chair and the meeting opened with a hymn. Mrs. Maitland Ryan was in charge of the worship period. Mrs. Clark read the scripture and Mrs. R. Scott gave a reading on "Peace." The ladies enjoyed a very nice duet sung by Mrs. Allan Reesor and Mrs. Charlie Whitaker. The study book was taken by Mrs. Lloyd Taylor assisted by Mrs. Allan Reesor, Mrs. Jake Burkholder, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Harrington and Mrs. Frank Reesor. The meeting closed with a hymn and benediction following which the group served lunch.

The W.M.S. is sponsoring a paper drive which goes into effect immediately and lasts for two weeks. Papers, magazines and old books without covers will be accepted but they must be tied in separate bundles. Just take them to the church and leave them in the shed. The W.M.S. will do the rest.

There were three birthdays in the village this week. Gordon Dimma celebrated his 75th with a bangup family surprise party with most of the family present and telegraphs or phone calls from those who could not attend. Albert Booth celebrated his on Saturday night and wait 'til you see the bright new plaid shirt. Gary Dare entertained his friends at a party last week and started his new year with flying colours.

Tom and Mary Rowland and their children had tea last Sunday with Mrs. Scott and the Whitakers.

Miss Nellie Lapp is home from the hospital and feeling ever so much better. That is good news, indeed.
Mrs. Carson Armstrong hit the jackpot last Saturday night. She won the Markham-Unionville Lions draw and had her choice of a trip to Florida or a bond. She took the bond, and why not? Who would want to leave for Florida when all the robins are arriving in Cedar Grove.

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Golden Text.—God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. —Rom. 5:8

They were utterly insincere, for when He did a greater thing—actually rose from the dead—they sought every means to suppress the truth (chap. 28: 11-15).

Verse 43.—"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now." This quotation from Psalm 22:8 could scarcely have been studied on the lips of these scoffers. Rather, in their jeering they all unconsciously fulfilled that prophetic Scripture.

Verse 44.—"The thieves also... cast the same in his teeth." That men in the midst of their own suffering would so turn on a fellow sufferer shows the depths of human depravity. For the remarkable repentance of one of them, see Luke 23:39-43.

Verse 54.—"Truly this was the Son of God." The absence of the definite article in the Greek has led some to think that the centurion regarded Jesus as "a son of God" in the Roman, pagan sense. The circumstances, however, seem to demand that the phrase be taken as referring to the essential nature of our Lord—Son of God. A similar usage is found in Hebrews 1:2.

The Heart of the Lesson
Regarded as an act of man, the crucifixion of Christ is the crime without equal. It is as if all the sinfulness of the human race were concentrated in one supreme deed of shame. True, our Lord mitigated the blame with a plea of ignorance (Luke 23:34), but even the ignorance was criminal and culpable in face of the spiritual privileges of the Jewish leaders. One just has to read the account of the death of Christ to sense, in spite of all the chasteness of Scriptural narrative, the very hate of hell in the sadistic cruelty and unfeeling mockery of those who pressed in upon the holy Sufferer.

Let us not try to justify ourselves by saying that we should have had no part in the deed had we lived back there. The very men who sponsored the whole dastardly crime were saying that very thing about the crimes of their fathers in murdering the prophets (Matt. 23:29-32). Let us painfully but truthfully confess that we are members of a race capable of murdering the Son of God, and accept our share of the responsibility. Every time we disobey God we demonstrate our partnership with those who slew Him.

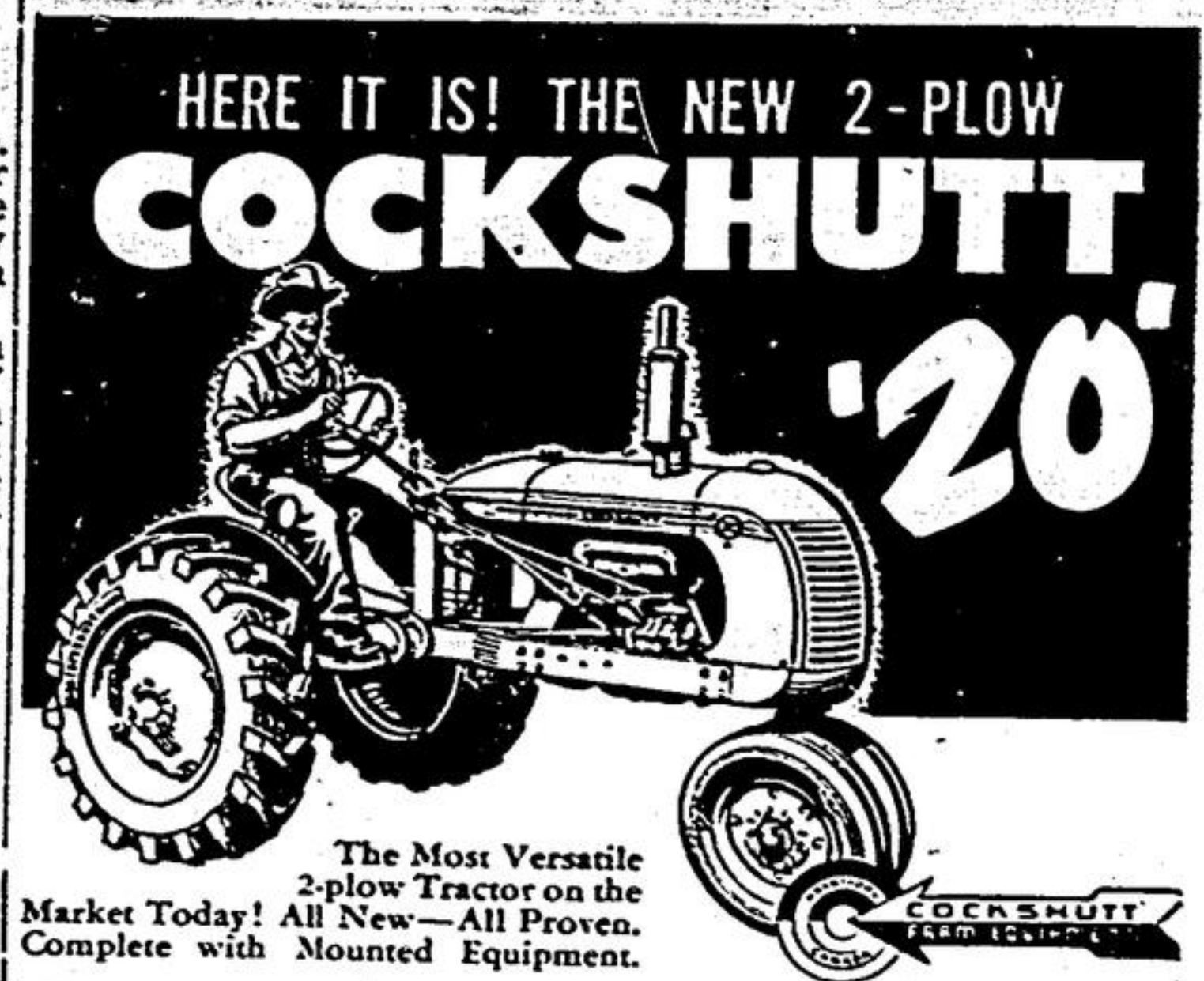
But why such submission? Again and again Jesus had walked through the midst of His enemies, and they were powerless to touch Him. When He challenged His arresters in the Garden, they fell on their faces before Him (John 18:4-6). He claimed that more than twelve legions

of angels waited only a word from Him to appear and rout His foes (Matt. 26:53). The third day after His crucifixion He made good His own predictions and rose from the dead. In face of all this, it is clear that He could have foiled His enemies, and He could have come down from the cross. Instead, He yielded to their hands. He submitted to all their cruelty. He remained on the cross. He accepted all the reviling without answer. Why such submission?

Because this was more than the act of men. "It pleased the Lord to bruise him" (Isa. 53:10). He was submitting, not to men, but to the will of the Father. Here is Peter's statement to the Jews: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23). It was the work of God. What was the epitome of human sin? What was the ultimate demonstration of man's rebellion against God? What was the supreme act of God's love for man; what rendered our race worthy of death and

destruction beyond hope of recovery was God's method of obtaining life and redemption for our lost race. For in becoming the victim of human sin He became the bearer of our sin, to put it away in the sacrifice of Himself. But on this subject one would prefer to write a book rather than a paragraph! It will fill our conversation through endless ages.

There are fewer cases where silence is golden than there are where silence is guilt.



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Verse 33.—"A place of a skull." Of the widely varying explanations, that which suggests that the name was derived from the contour of the hill seems most reasonable, and is supported by some aspects of the site proposed by General Gordon, and called "Gordon's Calvary."

Verse 34.—"They gave him vinegar... mingled with gall... he would not drink." A pungent wine given, narcotic quality by the addition of gall, or myrrh. It was the one humanitarian touch in this barbarous form of execution, the wine being supplied, we are told, by ladies of Jerusalem. Our Lord faced the ordeal with faculties unimpaired by the narcotic cup.

Verse 35.—"Parted his garments, casting lots." For a fuller account, see John 19:23, 24. The four soldiers detailed to the task seem to have had this right.

Verse 36.—"And sitting down they watched him there." Surely a picture of the callousness which can possess the human heart in face of exquisite suffering. Eternal issues were being fought out, while men "gaped" like idiots!

Verse 37.—"THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." This was affixed to the upright beam by command of Pilate, not so much in mockery of Jesus as in retaliation for his moral defeat. See John 19:19-22. Perhaps it even suggested a superstitious regard for Jesus.

Verse 38.—"Two thieves crucified with him." So He was "numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12).

Verse 39.—"And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads." Calvary was on the beaten track, so many wayfarers joined the crowd who had come especially for the sight, and added their insults. Wagging the head was an expression of contempt.

Verse 40.—"Thou that destroyed the temple... come down from the cross." For the reference to the Temple, see John 2:18-21 and Matthew 26:61. His claim to be the Son of God was the ground on which the Jewish court condemned Him, although they secured His sentence from the Roman power on another score (Luke 23:2).

Verse 41.—"Likewise also the chief priests... with the scribes and elders." Their hatred and malice robbed them of their dignity, and they stooped to the despicable revenge of mockery in the face of such suffering.

Verse 42.—"Let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

Is A Child's Happy Smile Worth A Dollar To You?

Have you ever stopped to realize just how fortunate most families are to have happy carefree children without the tarnish or blemish of being in constant pain — of having unsightly deformities or crippled limbs. To most of us, these blessings are accepted without too much thought . . . without realizing that there are among us MANY who need a helping hand to guide their way back to a more healthy active life.

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