

## A "Balloonic" Party

BY EMILY ROSE BURT

Just as the struggle with windy March melts into April foolishness, you may appropriately think of a "balloonic" party. Cut out little brown paper balloons, with the instructions, inscribed on a small white basket-shaped card, below:

In our balloon, in our balloon. We'll sail away up to the moon. Balloons will say we are. And stop at every windy star!

Decorate the rooms with toy balloons of all colors, to bob and bow cheerfully on long ticks and strings from every chair back and window pole. Everybody should be greeted at the door with a request to wear a balloonic grin during the evening.

Soon after folks have arrived, announce a balloonic "meet," and invite all adventurers to be ready at the naval balloon station for the start. This is the signal for everybody to gather at a certain spot and receive one of the gay balloons unattached to strings or sticks.

The next announcement is the altitude test. All who enter it must stand in a row and strive to make their individual balloons reach the ceiling by dint of puffs and deep breaths. The most successful are set down by the judges for future awards.

A speed test takes the contestants down the length of the room, chasing their balloons with their lungs. Fans can be provided for this if you prefer. An endurance test to see how long the balloons can be kept in the air is a third exciting contest.

A balloon battle, in which greens and yellows attempt to bang and "bust" reds and blues, is a thoroughly ice-breaking occupation if the crowd needs living up. The promised trip to the moon may be carried out in the same way as "Stage Coach." Each player is assigned some portion of a balloon's anatomy or the name of a star or planet. A clever person must be selected to tell the story of the balloonic trips to the moon, in which the various trials and tribulations that real balloonists have been known to undergo may come in for exploitation. Each time the word assigned to any player is

mentioned, he must rise and blow his balloon into the air, catch it again, and sit down. On mention of the arrival at the moon ensues the interchange of seats.

As if the company may not have acted sufficiently like lunatics, the next amusement may be a "lunatic" one. The company should be divided into two sides, and the members are to vie with each other in doing individually or collectively something utterly absurd.

One side may act a scene from "Main Street"; the other side may put on a mock minstrel show, or some vaudeville parodies.

When it is refreshment time, the balloonists are asked to come down out of the clouds to earth and food. Hot coffee is reviving in such a case, and of course there should be sandwiches, which, to be entirely consistent, may have filling of air currents and moon memories (currant jelly and cream cheese).

The stars may be represented by cookies or little cakes, or by b'g, luscious layer cakes, dusky as the night with dark chocolate frosting, but lighted by small star candles. Big baskets filled with cracked hickory and butter-nuts may have real little balloons tethered to them as they are passed. Little paper parasols or wind-blown umbrellas will make delightful favors. After supper, play the old-fashioned game of "Elements." The players sit in a circle, and one begins by tossing a rolled-up handkerchief to someone else, crying, "Air." As soon as the player who catches the handkerchief has mentioned some creature of the air—gull, eagle, aeroplane, swallow, or whatever it may be—he or she tosses it to another player and calls, "Earth!" The recipient must name some inhabitant of the earth—mole, bear, girl, hog, etc. When "Fire!" is called the player must keep silent until tossing it on again. The prizes for the balloonic races should also be awarded after supper. If you care to introduce dancing, put on your liveliest records, and let the balloonists end the evening in their own way.

## Recipes for Easter Time

An Easter salad is prepared thus: Wash and drain lettuce, wrap in a wet cloth and place where it will keep fresh and crisp until ready to use. Shortly before serving, shred the lettuce and arrange on plates to form nests. Mold cream cheese the size and shape of birds' eggs, dust with paprika and place in the lettuce nests. With the salad pass French dressing and saltine crackers.

French salad dressing requires four tablespoons of salad-oil; two tablespoons of lemon-juice or vinegar; one-half teaspoonful of salt; one-quarter teaspoonful of pepper. Place a small piece of ice in a bowl, add the oil and lemon-juice or vinegar and other ingredients. Beat with a fork until the dressing is thick. Remove ice and place the dressing in a cold place until ready to serve.

Chocolate-covered Easter eggs require the whites of two eggs and an equal amount of cold water. Beat the egg-whites to a froth, add the water, then stir in gradually sufficient confectioner's sugar to make a paste stiff enough to be molded into shape. Flavor with a few drops of vanilla extract, mold in shape of eggs, dip in melted chocolate and lay on waxed paper to harden. Grated coconut may be mixed with the paste, if desired.

Serve baked ham for the Easter dinner. To prepare it, fry a thick slice of ham on both sides until half done, place it in a baking dish, cover thickly with raw sliced potatoes, season with pepper and a little salt, sprinkle with half a cupful of grated cheese, and a cupful of bread-crumbs. Cover with milk and bake in a moderate oven for an hour and a half. Serve spinach with the ham, and no matter whether you serve the canned or freshly cooked spinach garnish it

**Why Good Friday?**  
How Good Friday got its name is a matter which is often discussed. The word Friday is really the strangest part of the name of so solemn a date in the Christian calendar. Few realize that in saying Friday they are commemorating a pagan deity, Freya, the Scandinavian Venus, says an English writer.

In France Good Friday is called Passion Friday; in Germany, Quiet Friday; and in Italy, the Blessed Friday.

Good Friday in former days enabled the careful citizen to save his fire insurance policy, for it was believed that an egg laid on that day would extinguish any fire on which it was thrown. Such eggs were saved for use in the case of an emergency!

Bread baked on Good Friday was

supposed to have its protective value, for it was believed that three loaves put in a heap of corn would prevent the latter from being devoured by rats and mice. An infant born on Good Friday was supposed to possess the power of curing fevers.

There are some things to be avoided on Good Friday. West country people consider it a sin to wash any clothes on that day. They declare that should you do so you are likely to lose your most valued possession before the year is out.

**Marriage of Fractions.**  
"My half-brother is engaged to my wife's half-sister."  
"When will they be made one?"

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other.

Goethe.

## Not Here, But Risen.

"He is not here," the angel said,  
As to the tomb the women came  
To anoint the Lord.  
Whom they had seen in agony,  
Die on the cross; whose body scarred,  
From thence removed by loving hands,  
Had here been laid.

"Not here but risen. Behold the place,  
Wherein He lay and quickly hasted,  
The news to tell,  
To those who loved but sorrow now,  
As for the dead." Amazed they go  
To tell the tale of empty tomb  
And risen Lord.

"The Christ alive!" What joy was born  
That Easter day, when from the grave  
The Saviour rose!  
To-day, as then, the glorious news  
Of Christ, exalted from the tomb  
Doth gladness bring and saddened hearts  
Chant glad refrains.

How sad the world, were there no hope

For those who mourn—no comforting  
For weary hearts!  
But in the message Easter brings  
Of One who lives, and living loves,  
Hope springs anew and faith uplifts  
Her eyes to Him.

—Fred Scott Shepard.

**April.**  
We love the month of cheerful  
moods,  
Sunshine and rain, and light and  
shade,  
Winds, gusty, frolic in the woods,  
Streams laugh and dance within the  
glade.

A drifting rain has drenched the fields,  
The weeping clouds float fearful by,  
The trees, in misty shrouds concealed,  
Wave spectral branches to the sky.

In golden shafts the sun breaks  
through,  
And bathes with warmth, a world  
so fair,  
And dormant life bestirs anew,  
There's joy in meadow, stream, and  
air.

Mid quickening life, and hopes new-  
born,  
A world that thrills with nascent  
power,  
Rejoice my soul: 'tis glorious morn,  
Life's summer is thy priceless  
dower.

—D. Anderson.

## Easter Gifts Worth Having.

The custom of giving eggs at Easter dates back, in England, to the time of the Reformation; but history tells us that the lady and ladies of Ancient Greece were in the habit of going from house to house performing the play of the Resurrection, and exacting an egg in payment from each householder.

Some years ago a record Easter egg was presented to the Queen of Spain as a token of affection by some of her subjects. It cost more than \$15,000 and was decorated with flowers made of fine metal and filled with the choicest sweets and several articles of exquisite jewellery. The egg was illuminated by electricity.

In 1887 the Pope received an egg of ivory. When it was opened it was found to contain a golden case and a ruby worth \$10,000.

Some years ago an American millionaire commissioned a London firm to manufacture an Easter egg capable of holding the whole of his bride's trousseau and jewellery. When it was completed the services of seven men were required to carry it to the owner's house!

**Rolling Eggs for Sport.**  
The egg-rolling competition by which Easter is celebrated in the North of England still has a considerable popularity.

On Easter Monday one can see thousands of people rolling hard-boiled eggs down hills and slopes. The eggs are dyed all sorts of colors.

The principal town where egg-rolling contests take place is Preston. The object of the competitors is to break as many as possible of their rivals' eggs as they roll down the slopes, the winner being the one whose egg remains intact the longest.

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Another curious custom is observed in some parts of Switzerland, but its origin is unknown. A hundred eggs are distributed over a level piece of ground and covered with sand. Then the young men and women of the district dance around them. If a couple should be lucky enough to get through a dance without breaking any of the eggs, they become engaged to be married!

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## Easter

What is the significance of Easter to the average secular mind? It does not require the devout mental attitude of one faithful in religious observance and in church attendance to find in this great spring festival a peculiar and an inspiring meaning. Easter belongs to a world beyond church walls. It is an incentive to the race. It is, like spring itself, the symbol of new life and hope and victory. It signifies a conquest over the dominion of the material world, as the earth-bound spirit breaks it gyves and is free.

Easter wears something more than an aspect of revival and survival—it even seems like something that never happened before. The day itself may be rainy or it may be brilliant with sunshine—the inner mood is capable of rising above the meteorology to the truth which Easter is intended to bring home to the consciousness of all of us, that "Life is ever lord of Death, and Love can never lose its own." There will be in the churches the joyous animation of services planned with care to emphasize the paramount idea of the Resurrection. But in addition to these services each individual may profitably commune with himself as to the release of the buried life, the dormant forces that are in us all. Most of us are but half-alive. We go through the perfunctory motions of our duty, when we might undertake and accomplish incredibly more. It does not need William James to tell us what we well know—that we are capable of doing a lot more than we are doing now. Easter ought to be an incentive to an expanding activity, in a lifetime that means a great deal more than keeping alive as long as one can.

## Easter Lilies.

Majestic, stately, lovely as a dream,  
The Easter lilies bow their heads in prayer  
Before the shrine and offer incense there.  
Like flowers of pearl the shining  
glossoms seem;  
Each golden calyx seems to catch a gleam  
Of light from Him, the Altogether Fair;  
Each lily breathes a message on the air,  
The words of Christ form for each one the theme.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life;  
He who believes in Me, though he were dead,  
Yet shall he live; and he who lives in Me  
Shall never die. And lo! have I not said  
'I am the Way, the Truth that frees from strife?'  
Behold death swallowed up in victory!"

—Elizabeth Scollard.

## April Fooled.

Most April Foo's Day hoaxes are forgotten almost as soon as they are perpetrated. There is one, however, that will live in history, if only because it was the means of saving two lives. Francis, Duke of Lorraine, and his wife, being in the prison at Nantes under sentence of death, hit upon the idea of taking advantage of the Festival of Folly to effect their escape. This they did disguised as peasants, the Duke bearing a hod on his shoulders and the Duchess a basket of rubbish on her back. While passing through the gates of the city, however, they were recognized by a woman, who ran and told the sentry. "Your prisoners are at large," she cried, breathlessly. The man regarded her a moment, and then winked with great solemnity. "Aye," he retorted, ironically, "they would be an' all. Dost think thou'st the only one as knows it's the First of April?"

Later on the Governor, to whom the story was told as a jest, grew suspicious, and ordered an investigation. But it was then too late, for in the meantime the fugitives, mounted on horses provided by their friends, were beyond reach of pursuit.

## "Mothering" Sunday.

Though many ancient customs are rapidly disappearing from the England of to-day and giving place to the ways of more modern people, several old and quaint usages of the Lenten period are still handed down from generation to generation. Among these is mid-Lent Sunday, known in the more remote country villages of old England as "Mothering Sunday." It is still kept as a kind of festival day in many parts of the kingdom. The term "Mothering Sunday" arose from the old country custom of allowing the lady and ladies in service away from home to take the day off in order that they might be able to visit their mothers. It was the custom for such young people to carry a cake as a present to mother; although nowadays the present usually takes the form of some inexpensive purchased article of no particular significance. To that extent the day has lost one of its charms.

In Shropshire, however, not only do they still take the custom cake, as it is known, but also the first violets of the year, which gives rise to the local saying, "who goes another finds violets in the lap."

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WILL FIND

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The Company will make no charge to the farmer for this service nor will the farmer be required to make any cash advance whatsoever towards the travelling expenses of his help to the nearest railway station. The information recently asked for in these application forms, which will be held in strict confidence, covers the following points—the kind of help wanted—male or female—married or unmarried; date required and for how long; nationality desired; monthly wages offered; kind of work offered, etc.

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