

55/30.

EASTER PARADE:

At Southwark Cathedral on the Thursday of Holy Week, the Queen followed the ancient tradition of distributing the Royal Maundy. She receives first a nosegay of sweet herbs. Usually the ceremony takes place at Westminster Abbey, but this year it was at Southwark in recognition of the jubilee of the diocese.

The custom of the sovereign distributing the Maundy dates back to the days of Edward the first. The recipients number as many old men and old women as the sovereign is years of age.

The gifts used to include cloth, salmon, bread and wine, but nowadays the mint strikes special silver coins for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman come from Camberwell. Mrs. Freeman is eighty-one.

Easter is, of course, essentially a Christian festival, and in cathedral, chapel and parish church, people come to give thanks for Christ's resurrection. Here to Westerham in the heart of Kent, (as in the rest of the Christian world) the young and the old join together in worship.

In Rome, pilgrims in their thousands pack the great square in front of St. Peter's. This huge assembly has come to receive the Pope's blessing 'pro urbi et orbi' for the city and the world. They are silent as he speaks:

In his Easter message, the Pope invoked a special blessing on statesmen that they might spare humanity from the destruction of a new war.

In the far frozen north of Canada, the Eskimos make their way to the small settlement of Pond Inlet to celebrate the ancient Christian festival. And they travel as they've travelled for centuries. Here there's no aeroplane or centrally heated train.

It's the end of the trapping season and after the service, they will begin to trade their skins and furs. The anglican missionary, Mr. Donald Whitbread, rings the bell.

The Eskimos use a special New Testament and prayer book, translated into syllabic writing, and the service is conducted in their own tongue.

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All the family are there, and the minister has a word for each one of them as, the service over, they set off for fun and games on the ice. From the frozen north to the sunshine of Brighton. Easter as well as religious festival, is also the first big holiday of the year, and for once the weather man was kind to most of us. There are even the hardy ones trying a spot of sunbathing.

But its doubtful if there's much danger of being burnt.

Another feature of Easter is the hat parade, and here at Luton long known for its hats, the crowds turn out to see the Easter bonnets.

The Post Master General, Dr. Hill, sports a boater.

And the fashion expert a feathered hat.

They say that a women's hair is her crowning glory, but throughout time the gentle sex have crowned that crown with hats of every shape and size.

Once it was a wimple; once it was the clothe; and now, heaven help us, it's a spider. From the fierce spider to a fierce fighter. Don Cockell, British and Empire heavyweight boxing champion spent his Easter at sea on the way to America for his world title fight with Rocky Marciano.

Cockell is the first Briton to fight for boxing's supreme honour since Tommy Farr fought Joe Louis in 1937. Asked what his chances were of winning the crown, Don said:

Another traveller is Sir Winston Churchill. With his wife, he goes to Sicily for a brief holiday. There he will stay in a hotel above the sea, among groves of orange and lemon trees. It is Sir Winston's first holiday abroad for some time.

Their 'plane is a B.E.A. Viscount, and it flies the standard of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Apart from royalty this is the first time that a personal standard has ever been flown from a British aircraft. From planes to cars. Goodwood, and the Richmond Trophy.

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