

Interesting Easter Facts

With spring's arrival in a few days, and Easter just around the corner, this month we are taking a break from the legal information usually provided in this column, and providing a few interesting facts relating to the Easter holiday:

- Easter is named after Eastre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess.
- Easter is known by different names across the world. Some of them are as follows:
English - Easter, French - Paques, Spanish - Pascua, Italian - Pasqua, German - Ostern.
- In most languages other than English and German, the holiday's name is derived from Pesach, the Hebrew name of Passover.
- From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures.
- The traditional act of painting eggs is called Pysanka.
- Easter never occurs before March 22nd, or after April 25th. Its date is determined by the lunar cycle, and occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox.
- The Cross is the symbol of the Crucifixion, as opposed to the Resurrection.
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ took place during the Passover.
- The Passover is the 8 day observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II.
- Every year on Easter, the Pope gives his "Urbi et Orbi" (papal address) to the world.
- Eggs, candles, lilies, crosses, palms, bunnies and lambs are the most popular symbols of Easter.
- Hot cross buns, made by European monks, are counted amongst the earliest Easter treats. They were given to the poor people, during the month of Lent.
- The first Easter baskets were made to look like bird's nests in which children placed brightly colored eggs.
- In America, Easter is the second top-selling confectionery holiday behind only Halloween.
- The first chocolate eggs were made in Europe in the early 19th century and remain among the most popular treats associated with Easter.
- Americans buy over 60 million chocolate bunnies for Easter each year.
- 76% of people say they eat the ears on chocolate bunnies first.
- Over 16 billion jelly beans are made for Easter.
- Just Born produces enough PEEPS® Brand Marshmallow Candies in one year to circle the earth twice.
- In the mid-20th century, it used to take as much as 27 hours to make a marshmallow PEEP®. Today, the time has been reduced to just six minutes.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest chocolate Easter egg made was in 2011 and was just over 34-ft high and weighed 15,873 lbs.

- The first White House Easter Egg Roll was held in 1878, and is one of the oldest annual traditions at the White House.
- The egg roll is considered by many as a symbol of the stone blocking Jesus' tomb being rolled away during the Resurrection.

As we watch the trees and flowers emerge from their winter slumber, I wish you a safe spring season and very special Easter celebration with family and friends during this beautiful time of renewal and rebirth.