

Shmanners 160: Easter: Egg Hunts and Other Celebrations

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Travis: I think the hunt this year will be egg-cellent!

Teresa: You're crackin' me up!

Travis: It's Shmanners!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, Internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners!

Teresa: Extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: Oh, man. Let me have a little sippowitz of my coffee.

Travis: Yeah! It's, uh, early morning here in the McElroy household, recording an episode of Shmanners, while Bebe demands to simultaneously eat breakfast and go outside.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Join us, won't you?

Teresa: Join us.

Travis: Hello, this is our chaos.

Teresa: You sound like Casey Kasem.

Travis: That's kind of what I was going for!

Teresa: Oh good, good!

Travis: Thank you, yeah. And know a long distance dedication to Bebe McElroy.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, hi everybody! Welcome. It's another episode—spring has sprung, here in North America. Um, I know it's not spring everywhere. That's a thing that I have learned in the last decade. [laughs] It's not—let me clarify. I always understood, right?

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: But it didn't really sink in until recently, and like when we learn about like, Christmas in Australia and Santa comes surfing in it's like, "Whoa!" It just trips me out. Anyway.

Teresa: Yeah, that is something that I was thinking about for this topic as well. We're going to do the topic of egg hunts. Um, but yeah, Australia. So, back when Australia was a British colony, right?

Travis: Yes?

Teresa: They—they took all of the British business, especially in the Victorian era, and it's fall! It's fall right now in Australia and New Zealand, and yet, the Easter Bunny prevails, and there's like—like you're supposed to put like, flowers out and stuff? It's weird. It is weird. I agree, is what I'm saying.

Travis: I would say, it's weird to us. It's normal to our Australian and New Zealand friends.

Teresa: I suppose, yes.

Travis: So maybe you should say it's different—

Teresa: It's different.

Travis: —rather than it's weird. It's different. Um, so let's talk about egg hunts! Did you, when you were a kid...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Did you do Easter egg hunts?

Teresa: Yes we did.

Travis: Yeah. With real eggs, or with plastic eggs?

Teresa: Well, um, real eggs I believe, yes. So what we had was my mother, very expertly, made us some Easter baskets. Like for real, like, wove us Easter baskets, 'cause she's amazing. And in the Easter baskets we had plastic eggs that had candy in them, but we would dye eggs the couple days before, and then the Easter Bunny would hide them in the yard!

Travis: Now, this is a thing that I have often thought about, 'cause we would dye eggs and then the Easter Bunny would hide them too. Why didn't the Easter Bunny just make his own eggs? Why'd he have to take our eggs? Anyway, it just bothered me. Um—

Teresa: Well, because I think you want the experience of dyeing the eggs, but you also want the experience of finding the eggs—

Travis: Hmm, I guess.

Teresa: —and, you know, if the Easter Bunny's gotta do one of 'em...

Travis: You know actually, now that I say that, I'm pretty sure that we would dye eggs but then our parents would still hide plastic eggs, because I remember... so, I remember very clearly a couple different ones.

One year, uh, it was plastic eggs with candy inside them, and then it was plastic eggs that we could turn in for candy, and then it was plastic eggs with little, uh, notes, like, clues written in them, that led us to our Easter baskets.

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: That's fun.

Travis: We've got actually a very fun McElroy home video of my dad and his friend Mark, like, hiding Easter eggs for us and Mark's kids, and us like, going through our house and finding them. And, um, my dad having to make sure that me and Justin didn't take all the eggs before Griffin could find some.

Teresa: Aww.

Travis: 'Cause I think Griffin found like, one, and you just see him in the video like—he was maybe like, two or three, and he's just like, holding it up to dad, and dad's like, "Yeah, go find more!" And Griffin's just sitting there, holding up the one egg like he's just found the golden snitch.

Teresa: [laughs] Yeah. Well, so here's the problem with Easter egg hunts in my household. Um, nobody really likes hard-boiled eggs in my house.

Travis: See, we never... I know you and I just had this conversation yesterday, 'cause I'm gonna help Bebe dye some eggs before Easter. In my house—I don't think we ever ate—and like, my dad I know loves deviled eggs, and I think hard-boiled eggs, too, and I like hard-boiled eggs, and I can't remember how my mom felt about 'em. But I don't think we ever ate the eggs that we dyed, and maybe that was just 'cause like, when you're like, six or seven and you dye the eggs, if you saw someone like, "Great! Now a little salt." You'd be like, [high pitched voice] "I just did—wait! I just did that!"

Teresa: Well, I mean, they're fine inside the shell, right? But I—there was something... first of all I don't like them to begin with, don't like hard-boiled eggs. But like, there was something about cracking open the dyed surface—

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: —that sometimes turned blue or green.

Travis: Right, that's what I'm saying. I did not care for a blue or green egg. Okay, enough about our personal experiences. Now, historical experiences.

Teresa: Um, would you categorize Easter as a Christian holiday?

Travis: Well, see, this is a trick question that I know the answer to. I know that Easter is, um, much like Christmas and Halloween, a pagan based holiday that has been co-opted into the Judeo-Christian kind of mindset, or I guess just Christian. Um, I'm pretty sure Jewish people don't celebrate Easter, uh, for a lot of reasons.

Teresa: They celebrate Passover.

Travis: Yes. Um, but I know that it is based off of like, a celebration of like, spring and the vernal equinox and, uh, like, fertility and reproduction, which is why the symbols of Easter are like, a rabbit who, you know, they procreate a lot. And like, eggs, of like, the rebirth and, you know, new life. Um, and why it happens in the spring of like, you know, the flowers coming out of the snow, that kind of deal. Um, and at some point it became, uh, very Christian. Maybe the second most Christian holiday we've got, if not really the most Christian.

Teresa: So, the turning point comes when you take the egg, and instead of having it, uh, symbolize just any new life, it symbolizes the re—uh... the resurrection of the Christ.

Travis: Gotcha.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: But I have to assume that this was... this is where now my, uh, basis of knowledge then turns into, uh, extrapolating. But from what I know about Christmas, I'm betting it was like, a bunch of like, you know, church dudes sitting around going, "All right. We can't seem to get these pagans to stop celebrating Easter, and Easter does seem pretty cool, what with the bunny and the eggs and all, and the marshmallow Peeps."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And so, what we're gonna do is rather than get rid of Easter say, "Yes, and you know how we celebrate, uh, Christ dying and coming back? That's a lot like Easter!"

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: And—and just kind of, uh, glomming on to it.

Teresa: Right. Um, so there were a lot of different, uh, different assignments that they gave all of the things for Easter. Um, but the one that has to do with hunting was assigned by Martin Luther—uh, the 16th century Martin Luther. I almost said Martin Luther King, and that's wrong.

Travis: Yeah. No, no, no.

Teresa: No, no, no. Martin Luther. [laughs] From the 16th century.

Travis: Guy who nailed a thing to a door.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: Printed a book. Martin Luther.

Teresa: Right. So, um—

Travis: You know, I say that. I don't know if Martin Luther King ever nailed something to a door. I mean, maybe he did.

Teresa: That is—that is the story.

Travis: But Martin Luther King might have been—

Teresa: Oh, Martin Luther King.

Travis: Like, he might have like, hung a wreath on a door or something. He might've also nailed something to a door.

Teresa: It's possible.

Travis: You know—listen. People at home? Don't get 'em confused. You know who we're talking about, right? Okay.

Teresa: [laughs] So for his congregation, the egg hunt supposedly started when he would have the men of the congregation hide the eggs, and then the women

and children of the congregation would go and find them, representing the women who rolled away the stone at—

Travis: Mary and Martha? Was it?

Teresa: Yeah—maybe?

Travis: Man. Been a long time! Been a long time since I heard it, but I think that's it.

Teresa: At the—at the tomb, right?

Travis: Yes.

Teresa: So, um—

Travis: When they think, "Oh, it's just a gardener," or something, and he's like, "No, I'm Jesus, what's up?" And then he's like, up to heaven. That's the deal. I'm pretty sure that's how it's described in the Bible. "Hey, what's up? I'm Jesus. Byeee!" and then he just like, zips to heaven.

Teresa: Right. Um, and that essentially is where some sociologists think that... no, sociologists? That's not it. Is it anthropologists?

Travis: Sure. No—

Teresa: Anyway.

Travis: Yeah—I think—listen. Anyone who listens to this show knows—

Teresa: Historians. Ha.

Travis: Oh, historians works.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I think soci—yes, historians is what we're going for, I think. Sociology is the study of like, society, and Anthropologie is a store. [laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, just a joke. But I think that's the study of like, more ancient history?

Teresa: Right, but historians believe that this is also a nod to the Easter egg roll that may have been popular at some point.

Travis: The what?

Teresa: Well, the White House here in the US holds an Easter egg roll ever year, or they have for some couple hundred years.

Travis: Where you just roll eggs?

Teresa: You roll the eggs! Again—

Travis: To see who can roll the furthest?

Teresa: Yeah. It's kind of like an egg roll race.

Travis: Are they hard-boiled? I hope they're hard-boiled.

Teresa: I think that they do wooden eggs.

Travis: Oh, okay. Well, I mean, I could really chuck a wooden egg.

Teresa: No, you're supposed to roll it, though!

Travis: O—okay, but I'm sayin', even—

Teresa: Which again is a nod to the rolling the stone away at the tomb.

Travis: Ah, gotcha.

Teresa: Is where I was going.

Travis: Okay, I got it. But I'm saying, what is the mechanic—'cause I bet you could get some like, softball pitchers in there, and really get that underhand egg roll, like—get that thing to like, the Washington Monument. Is that a good ways—that's a good ways from the White House, yeah!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That was a good pull Travis. You did a great job. Thank you.

Teresa: Okay. So, let's get into the nitty gritty of the egg hunt, though.

Travis: Yeah! The—the gritty underbelly of the egg hunt, yeah!

Teresa: What do a lot of our social constructs go back to, Travis?

Travis: Victorian era?

Teresa: Queen Victoria!

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And that Prince Albert? They were real cool cats, and everybody wanted to do everything that they were doing.

Travis: They were the, uh—they wanted—people wanted to be them, and people wanted to be them. [laughs]

Teresa: Yes. [laughs] So, the lineage of Victoria is German, um, and the Easter with the pagan roots is attributed to Germanic peoples, mostly. So, Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, would hide Easter eggs for her in the palace. Uh, and so then she turned around and did it for her kids, but, um, they wanted to do it kind of outside, and they hid the eggs in little moss baskets, which I think is pretty cute.

Travis: Aww! That's very cute! You think it—they probably weren't like, natural baskets, right? They probably like, made 'em. They probably made baskets.

Teresa: Yeah, probably made little moss baskets.

Travis: Is there such a thing as a natural—I mean, I was picturing like, almost like Fred Penner's place. You find a little like, tree stump that, you know, has over time worn down, all this moss—you know what? I'm not here to be judged by you or anyone! My idea was cute, and fairy-like!

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Get off my back! [laughs]

Teresa: Um, so then everybody was like, "This is a cool thing. They gave us a Christmas tree, that's cool. They gave us an Easter egg hunt, that's cool. These are fun things to do with our families!"

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, and I think that's why the Easter egg hunt tradition has survived, because, like the Victorian era, the center around—especially in the US, around family time, is something that is like... you know, all of the psychologists are like, "This is important, to spend time with your family, raise your kids," like that, because before the Victorian era, it was kind of not cool to be with your family.

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: Yeah. Well—

Travis: Everyone was just like, teenagers?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Like, [moody teen voice] "I don't wanna hang out with my family. I'm gonna go do stuff."

Teresa: I mean, children were like, raised apart from their families. Um, especially in—I'm talking about the upper class, right? Um, but Queen Victoria was like, super hands on, at least according—

Travis: Comparatively, yeah.

Teresa: —comparatively. Um, and so this family time dynamic continues, because of the traditions that she set.

Travis: You know, I've always wondered... you've just made me think about this because you talk about like, things to do with your family. It is very interesting to me, and I think about this when any like, holiday rolls around, that when you look at like, for example, Halloween, right?

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Pretty big deal here in the states, right? We have trick or treating, we have pumpkin carving, you know, and like, I guess, costumes—like, there's stuff, right? But you can pretty much contain to, if you wanted to, a four hour period.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Right? And when you look at Easter there's like, the Easter basket, Easter egg hunt, Easter dinner, right? Once again, you could hypothetically do it all in four hours. Or you look at, I don't know, Thanksgiving, right? Yeah, hang out all day, cook, and eat dinner. But then you look at Christmas, and Christmas is like, you cannot contain everything that we all do for Christmas in one day, right? It's like, Christmas starts like, October 30th.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: You know? And it's always interesting to me—

Teresa: What is it that you boys say? The Christmas creep?

Travis: The Christmas creep begins so early, and there's—it's just always interesting to me that like, the same kind of, uh, amount of festivities, hasn't really developed around any other holiday except Christmas.

Teresa: I have to disagree with you, um, because being raised Catholic, Lent is all about Easter. So you give up something for Lent, right? And then you go to Church every Sunday and you're—you know, you're preparing yourself for the resurrection Sunday, which is Easter. Um, and then you're supposed to go to church on Good Friday. Some people go to church on Thursday, before Good Friday. Um, and then you're supposed to go to church on Holy Saturday, and then you're supposed to—

Travis: Holy Saturday, Batman!

Teresa: I know, I know. And then you're supposed to go to church on resurrection Sunday, so it's pretty much 40 days long.

Travis: Okay. Well, let me rephrase, then. And just say like, culturally, common culturally.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Like, there aren't like, Easter specials the way that there are like, Christmas specials, you know?

Teresa: But there are fish specials at restaurants every Friday!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I would—I would—

Travis: Okay, but that's different.

Teresa: I would say that that has entered into it. Listen, we don't have to fight about this.

Travis: But you know what I'm saying, right? You can't—

Teresa: I understand what you're saying!

Travis: Okay. Easter—Easter—and maybe—

Teresa: There is no Easter creep.

Travis: Right, yes. And like, there's no Thanksgiving cr—like, it's just... all of these holidays—

Teresa: I would have to argue that there is Thanksgiving creep, because pumpkin spice happens. [laughs]

Travis: This—that is fair. But like, Fourth of July, these kinds of things like, yeah, don't get me wrong, they're big deals, but nothing can like, topple the juggernaut that is Christmas. That's what I'm saying. Why can't it be Christmas every day? Okay.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Um, let's take a quick break from talking about... Christmas? Is that what we've been—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And—no, sorry. Egg hunts.

Teresa: Because I have two events that I would like to speak of, after the break.

Travis: And we will, but first, a word from our sponsors.

[theme music plays]

Travis: This week we would like to give a thank you note to Zola. Zola takes the stress out of wedding planning with a free wedding website, your dream wedding registry, affordable save the dates, invitations, and easy to use planning tools. They have over a hundred beautiful wedding website designs to choose from, and that fit any couple's style. And the Zola store has the widest selections of gifts at different price points. There's something for every guest to give.

One of our favorite things is you have the ability to, uh, like if you have a big ticket item or something that you—that, you know, maybe you feel a little guilty putting on because you don't expect any one person to get that thing for you 'cause it's a little pricey. Well, they have this thing where multiple people can go in on the same gift to get that for you! I think that's an amazing innovation in wedding registries.

Um, and plus, it's like a one stop shop for the stuff you gotta do, you know? I wish that we had known about Zola when we were getting married. You know, we were pulling from different sites. To get like, save the dates and wedding and invitations from the same place? That's incredible.

Teresa: It's true.

Travis: It's a great, great idea. So, you should start your free wedding website, and also get \$50 off your registry—what a deal! Free wedding website and \$50 off your registry? Wow. Go to Zola.com/shmanners and start your trial now! Or, I guess not trial, start the process! Get the ball rolling!

Teresa: Yeah, plan your wedding!

Travis: Do it! What are you waiting for?

Teresa: [laughs]

Allie: Hi! It's Allie Kokesh, one of the cast members of Mission to Zyxx, a new addition to the Max Fun Network. We're blown away by the welcome we've received from Max Fun listeners, telling us you've discovered the show and are binging it hard, supporting us during the drive, and just being rad humans all around.

Mission to Zyxx is an improvised, obsessively sound designed sci-fi comedy epic, following a group of ambassadors as they explore the ass end of space.

I play Dar, the 12 foot tall omnisexual security officer with furry scales, chest talons, and a series of flaps and shoots that are for.. ah, you know what, you'll figure it out.

We'd be delighted if you join our crew aboard the aging, sentient starship, the Bargarean Jade, as we travel the Zyxx quadrant, meeting all sorts of weird aliens played by brilliant guest comedians. That's Mission to Zyxx, Z-Y-X-X.

[music plays]

Amy: Hello, this is Amy Mann.

Ted: And I'm Ted Leo.

Amy: And we have a podcast, called The Art of Process.

Ted: We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum, to find out how they actually work.

Speaker One: And so I have to write material that makes sense, and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

Speaker Two: If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

Speaker Three: The fight to get LGBTQ representation in the show.

Speaker Four: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Speaker Five: I really just became a political speech writer by accident.

Speaker Six: Of realizing that I have accidentally, uh, pulled my pants down.
[laughs]

Ted: Listen and subscribe at Maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcast.

Speaker Seven: It's like if the guinea pig was complicit with helping the scientist.

[music plays]

Travis: Okay. There were some events? Events you wanted to speak of?

Teresa: Well, I'm going to hold you in suspense about the, um...

Travis: Agh!

Teresa: The White House egg roll.

Travis: The suspense!

Teresa: And tell you instead about the Easter Parade! Now, uh, we have a parade etiquette episode where I briefly mentioned the Easter Parade. Um, but I'd like to—

Travis: Isn't that a movie? Is that a movie?

Teresa: There is a movie, yes.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: Good job. [laughs]

Travis: That's it. That's all I know about it. I'm just proud of myself that I remembered that. Was Judy Garland in that one?

Teresa: She is!

Travis: That's why you smiled when I remembered it. Okay. All right.

Teresa: I'm a fan. Anyway... so, in the mid-1800s, in New York, the high society people would often walk to church services at various Fifth Avenue churches, and then they would kind of stroll around afterwards.

Travis: In their finery.

Teresa: In their finery. Um, and this really included hats, right? Because hats were big at the time anyway, and they even got bigger—[laughs] for Easter Sunday. [laughs]

Travis: What?! The hats got bigger?

Teresa: Um, and more ways than one.

Travis: Are we talkin' like, full blown like, Kentucky Derby hats?

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Wow.

Teresa: It became such a tradition of people constantly trying to outdo each other and look the coolest that people just started showing up kind of in the street to watch the spectacle of it?

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: Um, and then, that—the idea of the Easter Parade, um, became so popular that they made the movie about it, right? With Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. And, uh, the words by Irving Berlin actually go, "In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, you'll be a the grandest lady at the Easter Parade."

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I could—you're looking my expectantly, I'm not—

Travis: I wanted you to sing it.

Teresa: All right.

Travis: Are you going to—

Teresa: [inhales]

Travis: Yes!

Teresa: [singing] In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it, you'll be the grandest lady in the Easter Parade. I could write a sonnet about your Easter bonnet, and... how—[normally] I think it—[singing] How I'm going to take you to the Easter Parade. [normally] I think that's it.

Travis: Side note: I would love to hear a sonnet all about an Easter bonnet.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: I bet it would be a fascinating sonnet.

Teresa: Well, now I've really dug a hole here. Let me look. I did not look up the lyrics, I did that from memory—

Travis: But you did—listen, you did so well! Listen, everybody. If you're listening to that and you started applauding, tweet @teresamcelroy—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —and tell her what a great job she just did.

Teresa: Let me see, let me see... uh, well, okay. So I convoluted two different verses. So I sang the first half of the second verse and the last half of the third verse, but—

Travis: I think that's okay. I think that's okay. I think everyone will forgive you, because you sang so beautifully.

Teresa: Thank you, darling.

Travis: I will say, we also have, uh, some really great McElroy home videos of like, me, Justin, and Griffin, and Dad, like, standing on the steps of our front porch in like, our Easter outfits, you know?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I wanna say they're some—

Teresa: Your Easter finery for church?

Travis: Griffin, once again like, three, and me like, six, and Justin like, nine. Like, I'm not—I think I'm wearing white pants, blue short sleeved shirt with a clip on tie, and suspenders, and I'm pretty sure I have on like, the two tone black and white shoes.

Teresa: Aww...

Travis: And my full blown like, bowl cut. You know?

Teresa: Nice...

Travis: Yeah, it's pretty great. And Justin has like, spiky hair that wouldn't lay down. But not spiky like cool now, but just like, almost like a mullet. So close to a mullet.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And Dad I think full blown has a mullet, and Griffin looks like just a tiny baby angel.

Teresa: Of course.

Travis: 'Cause he always did, that jerk. [laughs]

Teresa: Now, the event itself of the Easter Parade has never really been religious other than people going to church, but there are some who might argue that processions have always been a part of like, the church atmosphere, whatever. Anyway.

Travis: Now, here's—so, I—we've already touched on this a little bit, but you were raised Catholic and I was raised Southern Baptist. Did you ever do Easter Pageants?

Teresa: No.

Travis: No. See, we did. And it was like a full blown thing where our, like, main room which the name of is now escaping me, the main room in a church where the thing is... anyways. Um, they would turn that into like, a full blown set. Like, over here is like, where the, you know, the—the stone and tomb is, and over here is like, where the crosses are, and over here the—Oh, that's Pilate's whatever. And then like, it was like a full blown musical extravaganza with like, live animals and—

Teresa: [whispers] Wow.

Travis: —um, it was a whole big deal. And like, you would see them building the set as you would like, come to church for like, weeks ahead of time. And I was always in it, and my Dad I think helped write it, and like, me and Justin and Griffin and Dad and Mom were like, all in it. It was like a big thing, but mostly I just like the acting part and the live animals. [laughs]

Teresa: Yeah, that is not something that we did. I don't know if it's—if it's not a Catholic thing, but it wasn't at my church.

Travis: Oh, yeah. We—oh, it was a whole big deal at my church. Um, and I just liked it 'cause I also got to eat the leftover bread from The Last Supper every night after. Which—listen. You're making a face, but I was seven, I was hungry, you know?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm just eatin' some bread. I'm not gonna let that bread go bad.

Teresa: Okay. So, I have kept you in high enough suspense, I hope, about the egg roll.

Travis: Yes, I wanna know about this egg roll!

Teresa: You wanna know all about the egg rolls.

Travis: Do you think they eat egg rolls?

Teresa: [laughing] No.

Travis: While they're there?

Teresa: No.

Travis: 'Cause that would be really on brand, don't you think?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, it's the egg roll, and here's some egg rolls! That'd be really—I think that'd be nice!

Teresa: All right. You do that then.

Travis: I'm sayin' maybe I'll have an egg roll where you roll egg rolls to see how far the egg roll rolls!

Teresa: Oh boy.

Travis: How much could an egg roll roll—

Teresa: [laughing] Oh my God...

Travis: —if an egg roll could roll rolls? You know what I mean?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm just sayin'! Like, if you have the chance to make something new, and not just do it the way everyone's always done it before, roll an egg roll across your lawn and then eat it. What could go wrong?

Teresa: [laughing] Okay!

Travis: Roll an egg roll...

Teresa: All right. So, in 1878, Rutherford B. Hayes and his first lady, Lucy Webb Hayes, opened the White House ground and held the first annual White House egg roll.

Travis: Also, side note, can we bring back the name Rutherford?

Teresa: Sure!

Travis: Rutherford. It sounds like you were going for like, a different name? But you couldn't decide on one, and so like... it sounds like you started to say like, "Russel," but then got confused halfway through and you're like, "Uh, Rutherford." It's hard for me to say, with my lisp.

Teresa: So, this tradition waxed—

Travis: Not gonna give me anything off of that, huh?

Teresa: You had enough.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: This tradition waxed and waned over the years, owing to wartime rationing, construction, weather, obvs.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, 'cause it takes place outside. Um, but it continues today, and it has over time developed into an event where it includes music and dancing and souvenir eggs and even an official White House Easter Bunny!

Travis: Ooh.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I assume you mean, like—

Teresa: That Easter Bunny was added during the Nixon administration.

Travis: Okay. Actual rabbit?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Or like, person-sized bunny?

Teresa: Mm-mm, person-sized.

Travis: Okay, person-sized bunny.

Teresa: Um, at that point, first lady Pat Nixon had one of her staffers dressed up as the bunny. Um, and then the winners of the egg roll race received a Nixon ballpoint pen.

Travis: Oh. Okay.

Teresa: Now, it is traditional to receive a souvenir egg.

Travis: Okay. I was gonna say. Nixon ballpoint pen. Not like, super... like, especially if you're a kid who just won an egg roll, like, "Here's a pen." Like, "Uh—okay."

Teresa: Um, under President Barack Obama, it really started to get the party atmosphere.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Um, there were several different, uh, activities that they could do. There was like, a kids' kitchen, um, where Michelle continued her initiative of healthy eating for the children. Um, and then they also had Spider-man attend.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: I know, that's pretty cool. And—

Travis: Way better than the Easter Bunny!

Teresa: And Cookie Monster.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Also attended.

Travis: Ah, Cookie Monster's the best.

Teresa: And, you know, sprinkle some minions in there.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: Some yellow minions. Yeah!

Travis: This is amazing! This is like finding out, like, that, you know—you were like, "I had a pretty good birthday party." And then your friend's like, "Yeah, I had my birthday party this weekend, too. I had a bouncy castle."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And you're, like, "Aw!" Like, I bet some—like, if you think about that Nixon one where it's like, "Oh, yeah, an Easter Bunny showed up and I got a pen." And it's like "Oh, that's cool. Spider-man showed up at mine!"

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "Aw, man!"

Teresa: It's true. Um, so this has been a pretty historically heavy episode. I would say it's more like a bio of an Easter egg hunt.

Travis: Fair.

Teresa: But I think that—the reason that we do these, dear listeners, the reason that we do these is because these traditions, they grow and they change and they have origins that may not apply to us today, but they are still things that, uh, at least here in the US, we continue to maintain as, like I said, family fun times.

Travis: Yes, as traditions.

Teresa: As traditions. And there's this kind of... I don't know. Secular participation of these that I would say is part of our culture.

Travis: I agree. Much like Christmas, you know? And I think Easter, too. Also, you know, we talk a lot about that these things have a lot of practical—when you like, scratch one layer below the surface, a practical kind of nature. And the thing is is like, you do egg hunts to keep the kids out of your hair while you cook Easter dinner.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Like, that's what it is. Like, keep 'em from like—"Okay everybody, go outside and go look for eggs! I need to work in the kitchen for a while," you know what I mean? Like, that's why you do it. Now, of course, should still be supervised.

But we have heard now, uh, speaking of taking it and making it your own, of like, adult people who do beer hunts where they hide beers instead of eggs, and you know, that's part of the party. And really, you could hide just about anything and call it, you know, an egg hunt. Just don't do a deviled egg hunt.

Teresa: Oh, ugh. Yeah, that'd be...

Travis: I think that'd be weird.

Teresa: Um, but I do want to mention, as far as like, the origin, one of the things that historians say is a possibility, the necessity of hard-boiling the eggs to keep them comes about from the Lenten fasting.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Teresa: So, way back when, not only were you not allowed to eat meat, uh, dairy was often included, and eggs.

Travis: Oh, so your chickens are still laying the eggs—

Teresa: Your chickens continued to lay the eggs. So, you don't want them to go bad, so you hard-boil them so that they keep until you're allowed to eat them on Easter. Now, that is if you were well-to-do and had chickens. Uh, but at that point, if you had so many eggs that you couldn't probably possibly eat them before they went bad, you would also give them away to the poor.

Travis: Okay! Another reason eggs would be a big deal during Easter, okay. Very interesting. All right! Hey, we've all learned a little something today, and isn't that the goal?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Of every Shmanners episode? Thank you all so much for joining us, um, and, as always, have a safe holiday weekend. We talk about this every time we

have a holiday episode, but you know, people tend to drink a little bit during the holidays, and it's so important that you don't drink and drive, and that you be careful out there, because you can't trust that other people aren't going to drink and drive. So be careful out there, because you're important to us and we want you to be around for many, many holidays to come. Um, so make good choices, be careful out there, and take care of each other.

Um, go check out all the other amazing shows on Maximumfun.org. Also, the McElroys are going on tour throughout a lot of 2019. Um, we have all of that listed. It's the Become The Monster tour, and namely features My Brother, My Brother, and Me, and The Adventure Zone, but probably there'll be some Sawbones and Shmanners and maybe some Wonderful! shows in there as well.

Uh, you can see the listings for them and get tickets by going to mcelroy.family and clicking on "tours." And also while you're there, check out the McElroy merch page, or you can go to mcelroymerch.com. Uh, we've got a lot of cool stuff on there, including a like, set of Shmanners thank you cards you can get. Very, very cute. You know, and it's just a nice thank you card, if you're looking for like, "Where do I even get thank you cards?" You can get them at mcelroymerch.com. We also got a Shmanners tote bag, Shmanners pin set, a Shmanners t-shirt, lot of Shmanners stuff on there. Go check it out.

Um, let's see. What else do I usually say, or you say?

Teresa: I usually make sure to thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, and you can tweet at as @shmannerscast. We love to get mentions for that, and for, um, our topics.

Travis: Yeah, if you have ideas for topics, uh, you can submit them. You can tweet us @shmannerscast, or, probably a little bit more effectively so they don't get lost in the shovel, you could email us, shmannerscast@gmail.com.

Teresa: Uh, thank you to Keely Weis Photography for the cover banner of our fan run Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners, and do check that out. It's a great place to give and get advice. However, if you put in topic ideas there, they definitely will get lost. [laughs] So please—

Travis: Make sure to email them!

Teresa: Email them.

Travis: Uh, and I think that's gonna do it for us! So join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners...

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[theme music plays]

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