

Wise or Otherwise

By ETHAN GRANT

The birth of A. Hitler was for numerous reasons a notable event. His arrival was accompanied by the angry actions of none of the elements. It was only an ordinary night, and the youngster was only another egg among many that were destined to spoil. It wasn't till his features began to assume marks of individuality that the unusual was noted: that his physiognomy was like that of a fish.

"A dolphin!" they exclaimed. "A dolphin with an acute pain," his uncle Max added. "Maybe we call him Dolphie, hey?"

Dolphie Sicklegruber. The date of his birth is immaterial. It is important only to record that the child was a blot on the Sicklegruber escutcheon. It is not for us to question the child's ancestry, but we have it on unreliable authority that upon hearing that a Hitler had arrived, Grandfather Sicklegruber promptly draped the Sicklegruber escutcheon with black cloth and took poison.

Not much is known of Dolphie's childhood, except that he used to spend most of his time sitting on the bar of the neighborhood rathskeller sticking his tongue out at a portrait of Bismarck. This lasted until he was about twelve, when one day Bismarck is said to have stepped down from the wall and slapped the boy off the bar. Too much credence must not be given this, since the witnesses were all drunk.

Being in disfavor at the rathskeller, and having no playmates, Dolphie disappeared one day with a stray St. Bernard. Years later, he reappeared, in Vienna, where he called himself Adolf the paperhanger. It is worth recording that in this profession he was scarcely above the average. Old-timers among the verivolk remember him only because he had a habit of constantly talking to himself.

He probably would not have been remembered at all if it hadn't been for the job he did at the home of Hans Krautslinger, the wealthy wienerschnitzel merchant. The Krautslingers were away that day and Adolf, having a penchant for confiscation, raided the icebox. Thoroughly surfeited with wienerschnitzel, he finished the job that afternoon with one hand, talking to himself with the other.

It was thus that he became known as the One-Armed Paperhanger. While reaching up to put the wallpaper into place, he conceived the idea of the Nazi salute. Seeking a suitable expression with which to accompany the salute, he hit upon the word "Heil!"

Two notable events contrived in 1914 to make him a corporal. There occurred a war and a death of corporals. He remained a corporal because of the entente's stubborn reluctance to correct its own mistakes. Why he wasn't quietly eliminated by his own squad remains one of the major enigmas of World War I.

A notable turning point in his career occurred late in 1917, when one day he stooped to retrieve a cigarette butt. A Yank of the Marine corps took careful aim and shot away Corporal Hitler's pyrex. It is the pyrex element in man which keeps him on an even keel. The sudden loss of the corporal's pyrex set him to spinning like a windmill stop a dike. Eventually, he passed out cold.

After existing for a year in a state of coma, he gradually became afflicted with bad dreams, akin to delirium tremens, except that he imagined himself being chased all over by non-Aryans. He was apprehended from time to time and tossed into the boobyhatch, but was eventually handed his certificate of availability on the grounds that his incarceration prevented him from contributing to the post-war effort.

He then became a soapbox orator and began denouncing the allies, the league of nations, the Versailles treaty reparations, communism, religion, marriage, Hindenburg and the German republic. Since everybody happened to be against a few things, it was only natural that by denouncing everything he could acquire many listeners. At first, they listened only out of curiosity and amusement at his squeaky voice.

But when he began calling attention to high taxes, and saying it was wrong for them to pay England, France and Italy billions for reparations so those nations could pay off their American war debts, the populace began perking its collective ears. And when he came right out and promised them all a Volkswagen by Christmas, they forgot his squeak and began following him around.

From those who followed him he selected Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Hess and a few others who had no compunctions in the matter of slitting a few throats, and set out to conquer the world. The rest you probably know. Except you've probably forgotten a promise he made when the present war was declared in September of 1939. "We shall win," he said, "and very quickly. So quickly that I vow not to remove my uniform until we do."

I have it on unreliable authority that it was this promise which caused the mysterious flight to England of Rudolf Hess. He is said to have confided to Churchill and Scotland Yard that he simply couldn't stand to associate with the stakko any longer.

Gardening Today

By LILLIE MADSEN

-Bits of interesting information have reached me this week from various correspondents. Much of this refers to previous inquiries and answers, and other bits include information that some other gardener has found useful and desires to pass on. I'll quote:

J. N. C. "The plant commonly known as Tinker's weed, or wild coffee, *Triosteum perfoliatum*, belonging to the honeysuckle family does not occur in the Willamette valley. Gray's manual gives the range as 'S. Mass. to Nebraska, Mo., and Ala.' I have myself collected it in southern Indiana, growing in rich woods. It is not at all showy and I never saw it in collections."

(I find in Norman Taylor's encyclopedia this information: *Triosteum perfoliatum*: Horse gentian; also called horse ginseng, wild ipocac, and tinker's weed. Erect, 3-4 ft. Leaves joined at the base, the stem passing through them. Flowers about 1/4 inches long, dull purplish-brown. Fruit orange-yellow. Eastern US in June-July.

M. G. D. writes: "Anybody can grow blueberries if they wish. I have several plants in my home garden and we canned a couple of pints besides using a lot for pie this year."

(I want to qualify this. Anyone can grow blueberries PROVIDED he or she has an acid soil. Blueberries look mighty sick if grown in a neutral or alkaline soil. If you grow really good rhododendrons in your soil, you can grow good blueberries.)

Mrs. L. P. writes, among other things, that she has grown a very fine late summer vegetable garden where she had grown earlier annuals. This is all she writes on this subject and it rather intrigues me. The vegetables—if early ones, can be grown before the annuals. Will she write a little more on this?

W. R. P. tells us that "the dwarf alder, *FORTHERGILA MAJOR*, is a native American shrub which first found favor in English gardens and was not recognized in our own country until later. It is low in habit, with glossy bright green leaves and peculiar showy white flowers which appear in May."

L. E. W. offers a hint to cattail-gatherers: "The soft, velvety tails will not become fuzzy and shed after a few weeks in the house if you will give each a coat of varnish. The brown heads soak in an unbelievable amount of the varnish, which shades them a richer brown and preserves them indefinitely."

M. P. gives this information: "Fanciers of choice plants for the hardy border and rockeries who will give the *Inula royleana* from the Himalayas, a trial, will receive a thrill when its noble beauty begins to unfold during July and August. Its flowers faintly

resemble sunflowers, but are much finer. The very striking feature of this plant is its flower bud before it opens."

(Taylor adds this bit of information to the above: A hardy herbaceous perennial of rather coarse habit, with daisy-like flowers ranging in color from yellow to orange.)

Other correspondents have sent me further bits of information which I shall pass on from time to time. I enjoy getting these and I know my readers enjoy knowing what their fellow gardeners know and do.

Ex-Dayton Man To Show Paintings In New York

Arthur J. Dover, former resident of Dayton who lives now in Dover Plains, N.Y., has been invited to show his paintings at the 117th annual exhibition on New York of the national Academy galleries, friends here have learned.

A jury selection comprised of artists all over the country chose his among the thousands of entries. Powell is one of the ranking artists, according to the New York-er.

The painter is the son of the late C. W. Howell of Dayton and a brother of Dr. William O. Powell of McMinnville.

Franz Pfeiffer Dies at Albany; Funeral Saturday

ALBANY—Franz H. Pfeiffer, 75, a resident of Linn county and Albany for more than 60 years, died suddenly of a heart attack at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, September 16.

Funeral services were held from the Fortmiller Funeral home Saturday afternoon, September 18, at 2 o'clock, with Dr. D. V. Poling conducting the services. Burial was in Riverside.

Surviving is the widow, who is seriously ill at present due to a fall recently in which she suffered a broken hip.

Petrillo Eases Transcription Ban

CHICAGO, Sept. 18.—(AP)—The ban which for 13 months has prohibited union musicians from making recordings or electrical transcriptions was partially lifted today, James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, announced.

Members of the AFM will be permitted, effective today, to make recordings and electrical transcriptions for Decca Records, Inc., and World Broadcasting System, Inc., respectively, Petrillo said at a press conference.



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