



TRILL number eight is published for the 130th FAPA mailing  
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### THE CASE OF THE POOPED PETUNIA

I suspect that I am the only person in the world with a subscription both to HORTICULTURE magazine and to HALFPARTS. Mind you, gardening is not an all-consuming passion with me, but neither am I a thorough-going radical. But I don't know any other gardener who is even a little bit radical, nor do I know any bearded revolutionary with a passion for vegetable marrows.

Gardeners are not usually John Birch types, of course. They are mostly exceedingly middle-class, given to mouthing the usual things about hippies and welfare, and utterly inactive politically. (However, Walter Ulbricht does grow roses. But you must admit that his brand of Communism resembles the shallow sort of slogan-mouthing of the typical gardening suburbanite to a rather remarkable degree). Even if they are active politically they are right-of-center in a somewhat unideological way -- "traditionalists" rather than ideologues or libertarians. Senator Dirksen grew marigolds.

Some radicals are called flower children and some of them go off to some unsanitary farmhouse and half-starve trying to grow their own food (they are especially fond of pieplant, which some groups actually think is sacred -- well I like the stuff, but sacred?). Occasionally they plant flowers on someone else's property and then point righteous fingers at the somebody else as the latter (like the idiots they are) dig them up.

Am I unique? Is there anyone else in the world who grows both roses and long sideburns?

### MY SON THE BABY

Peter, who is one and a half, has lately gone to one nap a day and Peeing On The Pot Like a Big Boy. The last few days, for some reason, he has adopted the policy of announcing, after about an hour of nap, that he wishes to rise at once. After Jane gets him up and shoes him he plays for ten minutes, then exhibits every indication that if he does not get some sleep right now it will be a catastrophe. Jane then puts him back to bed and he sleeps for another hour or two.

Yesterday he sat on the pot, Peed Like a Big Boy, got off, wandered around for a minute or so, and then

pladdled, as Avram would say, on Matthew's rug. Jane hastily put him back on the pot where he did his thing yet again.

Henceforth, Peter will be known as Grover.

#### MY CAT THE CAT

Sam, who has been with us for a little longer than Peter, is a solid white cat with one blue eye and one brown eye.

A couple of months ago another solid white cat, one apparently about six months, walked up to the door and announced that he was adopting us. He was helped along by some children who apparently thought he was Sam. We had wanted another cat anyway so we took him in.

However, we thought at first that he was female. In casting about for a name, I reasoned as follows: Sam got his name from one of my interests, namely Tolkien. What other interests do I have? You say science fiction? Don't be silly! Diplomacy, of course. What country did I play in my first Diplomacy game (which by the way I won)? Answer: Turkey. What was the first supply center I gained in that game? Bulgaria. What is the capital of Bulgaria? Sofia. So we named him Sophie.

His name is now Sophus, after the second-most famous Norwegian mathematician Sophus Lie.

#### DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy fandom is coming along nicely. It is difficult to know how many postal Diplomacy games are in progress, since zines occasionally mysteriously disappear, and some games are conducted by carbon copy. There are probably about 80-100 games in progress, at a guess. According to the official records there are at least about 92 completed postal Diplomacy games.

According to the latest figures from the LOWLY MOUNTAIN rating system, out of the 207 rated Diplomacy players (players who are no longer active are not rated) the following fans are high in the list (the number indicates their rank): Don Miller (4), Banks Lehane (10), John Koning (13), me (20), Derek Nelson (21), Jerry Pournelle (24). Some other high ranking players may be fans without my being aware of it. Of others I know, Jerry Page is 121st (he has the unusual distinction of never having gained a supply center in any postal game).

in-person game that he has played), Dick Schultz is 151st (actually he is no longer active), Hank Reinhardt is 44th and John McCallum is 45th.

Of course there are other rating systems which shuffle things a good bit. In some of them I have from time to time actually placed first. The LONELY MOUNTAIN rating system is a modification of a suggestion I made (it has the effect of rating someone who does well with a hard country like Italy better than someone who does well with an easy country like Turkey). I think it is terrible to place 20th in a rating system that I thought of. Tak.

#### LONELY MOUNTAIN PROLIFERATES

I am no longer sole editor of LONELY MOUNTAIN, which has reached its 52nd issue. I have acquired four co-editors: Dave Johnston, Dave Lindsay, Sid Cochran (who is a fan) and Terry Kuch (who may be a fan, I'm not sure). Each of us edits his own section of the zine and carries his own (Diplomacy and in some cases Parlement) games.

Sid and I share the publishing chores. Terry handles subs and sends the publisher address labels for each issue. Dave Lindsay does some extra typing work and Dave Johnston handles the rating system.

I have never heard of a fanzine that operated like this. It is not an apa since our various sections are all contained in one magazine (although of course there is nothing to stop any one of us from going off in a hissy and publishing his section as an independent magazine). It is unlike an apa in other ways, too. We do not elect officers. We do things by mutual consent. We have no waiting list (we have asked two others to join us but the decision to ask was by unanimous consent).

On the other hand, LM is not merely a magazine with five editors. Fanzines with multiple editorships have never, to my knowledge, had an arrangement whereby different editors had specific responsibilities to carry out.

Why not? Don Thompson suggested that the arrangement we have is unlikely in fandom because fans are so ego-involved in their magazines. A fanzine is its editor's alter ego in some ways. But I was not so involved in LONELY MOUNTAIN as to be unwilling to give it up. LONELY MOUNTAIN is a vehicle for self-expression and also a social space. By having the arrangement we do I

have more opportunity for self expression because the onerous chores are less.

Possibly LOCUS comes closest in arrangement to what we do in LM. But it is not the same; its editor is Charlie Brown alone, as I understand it, and he has a staff.

This issue of TRILL, the first in more than a year, is being sent to the editors of LM so they can read what I said about them.

By the way, LONELY MOUNTAIN of late has adopted the rather incestuous habit of its editors writing letters to the editor to each other. LM has a single letter column for all five editors, by the way, so that this exposed internal intercourse, as it were, becomes rather confusing.

Lake Lindsay has taken to calling it GROWING MOUNTAIN. How would you say that in Sindarin? Bruce, know you?

#### THE GREEN THUMB STRIKES AGAIN (NOR CAN IT REEL)

Gardening magazines, of which I subscribe to three, have a rather poor editorial standard. There is entirely too much of a Chamber of Commerce air about the articles, which are remarkably uninformative. Much of it is mere puffery. The magazines are all heavily dependent on the advertising revenue from the big nurseries and seed companies.

There is not enough good solid factual matter in the articles, probably because the middle aged ladies who make up the bulk of the readers would be frightened off by any sort of scientific-sounding word. When I read about a certain plant, I would like to know where it is native, what genus, order and family it belongs to (yes, I know I have those in jumbled order), all the usual cultural characteristics (when it blooms, how the seeds germinate, is it long-day, short-day, or day-neutral, etc.), who found it first and what breeders have worked with it, and so on. Generally an article will mention a few of these facts, but it is impossible to predict which facts can be found in what article, which is why I read so many magazines.

There are some specialized gardening magazines that I approve of. One is the magazine published by the American Hemerocallis Society. Breeding Hemerocallis

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daylilies) is a fairly recent thing in gardening; it has only been actively pursued in the last, I think, thirty or forty years. I have started a few daylilies in Limesoxa and I read the magazine occasionally when I visit the library, but I do not subscribe to it and at the moment do not even recall its correct name.

Anyway, there is one magazine that does not hesitate to use long words and to talk about all the complexities in growing their flowers. It is largely letter column, in which readers argue with each other about all aspects of growing daylilies. "My new yellow tetraploids had part shade and did fine." "Tetraploids have done much better in the sun than in the shade here" "I have obtained wonderful seedlings using Gusto as a pollen parent." "Gusto is a lousy pollen parent eighty percent of my see's didn't germinate".

Another good magazine is the one published by the American Iris Society. I read with fascination a long article recently comparing the Iris-lovers' long search for a pure red and the Rose-breeders search for a good blue. It bristled with technical terms like pergonin and delphinin and colchicine. I don't even like Iris.

At the other extreme is the American Rose Magazine. This is a pity because roses are my main hobby. You'll never see pergonin mentioned there (pergonin is what makes geraniums red). All you see are articles about how so-and-so has been growing roses since 1933 and was past President of the Lower Rugwash Garden Society and how his wife Emilda just loves her dear little miniature roses.

The Big Three gardening magazines -- FLOWER AND GARDEN, HOME GARDEN, and HORTICULTURE in ascending order of quality -- are in between the two extremes described above. What this field needs is a good muckraking-cum-solidly-researched magazine, sort of like CONSUMER REPORTS is to GOOD HOUSEKEEPING together with LIFE JOCK is to SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (although it is better done than any of the gardening magazines).

Possibly the British magazines are better. I am not familiar with the British rose magazine, but I have read occasional issues of their main garden society's magazine and it is only a little better than ours. A pity, since Britain is the world center of gardening (their rose society has four times as many members as ours).

