

## WHEN GRANDMA RULED

By FANNIE HURST

(© 1931, McClure Newspaper Syndicate) WNU Service.

THEY said of her, those who dared, and those who dared were outside her family, that she should have been born a man. Probably she should.

She was not one to employ any of the arts and artifices that were feminine. The molding of her face was strong. The hook to her nose was virile. The tall sparse figure, bent slightly in these later years, had the stride to it of a gaunt man. One wondered in what years grandmother had ever been sufficiently appealing in a feminine way to have won herself a husband. He had died eight years after their marriage; but those who knew said that he had died a happy husband.

Gone by now were such of those graces which might have existed in the younger woman. Grandmother ruled her children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren with a high, hard hand. She lived in a house with two of her married children and their families. Within a half-mile of the great gaunt red brick homestead where she had borne her family, there lived the remainder of her progeny. Clustered around the mother hen, as it were, dominated by her grip, was the family.

Strange thing, there was almost in the attitude of this woman toward her children that of the proverbial "gold-digger." Fortunately, they were a generous, easy lot with what grandmother called their father's "spending streak." She had lived through lean and terrifying years due to their father's improvident ways. There were times when the homestead had tottered on the brink of foreclosure and plans for her children, due to untimely and madcap investments, had been in jeopardy.

Grandmother knew the dangers of that kind of improvidence and probably decided that it was just as well to let her children offer gold to her as to spend it in their more promiscuous ways.

And yet there were times when it did seem that greed and avarice came out over the hooked old face of this sly old woman. Even from her young grandsons she demanded the homage of so little as a weekly one or two-dollar bill. Her son Wallace, the most successful member of her family, a striking, prince-like fellow who had made a fortune in a patent medicine, used laughingly to refer to her as the "pirate-parrot." She looked like a parrot, and, laughingly, the family conceded that she acted like a pirate.

In his palmy years—and Wallace was one to have good years and bad—it was nothing for him to shovel into the stern old woman's coffers thousands of dollars. When grandmother was seventy, she gleamed like a light-house. Jewels lay along her bony chest and burned in her strong gray hair.

Three of her sons were associated in the patent medicine business. Martin, the second and Oswald, the fifth. They were a gay brood, the owners of expensive wives and demanding children. If grandmother was proud of them, she gave precious little evidence of her pride. She was constantly taking them to task, disciplining the grandchildren, descending in tirade upon the extravagance of her daughters and daughters-in-law, denouncing in no uncertain terms the pretenses and magnificence of their social aspirations.

Grandmother was hard. Grandmother should have been a man. Sometimes, in talking things over, the children agreed among themselves that in their faint and crumbling memories of what their father had been, he seemed to stand out as the gentle, kindly, maternal one of the two.

Of course, grandmother had been superb, had lided them over bad places, but really, now—in her old age, she was becoming incorrigible.

It somehow was not nice for her to have accepted that thousand-dollar bill Wallace had given her for Christmas. Wallace's pretty wife Isabel did not mind matters about it. Her own Christmas gift from her husband had been a chair, which she had finally ended up by placing in his den. That thousand-dollar bill would have meant things that were actually needed in the Wallace household. Isabel loved her home, loved to deck it in finery. She was as entitled, in her opinion—and it must be admitted, in the minds of the other children—as grandmother was, to deck herself out with it in a square diamond ring. Wallace himself was uncommunicable, but there were hard and bitter lines around his mouth, and the family knew, without his ever taking anyone into his confidence, that the thousand dollars, hard-earned, coaxed from a business upon which the demands were many, had been maneuvered out of him by his mother.

And the old woman's contention was that, since the money would be wasted at best by a set of wastrels, she was as entitled to some of these things as these children of hers, that were the chips off the block of their improvident father.

Things reached a bad pass in the

family. The sons and daughters who shared the house with the old woman were restive and talked of creating their own homes. Sons and daughters who lived within communicable distance of the homestead were chary of calling and grandchildren had rigidly to be taught the duty of their weekly bow of deference to the old patriarch of a woman who sat in a tapestry chair and who resembled the pirate-parrot.

But even the indomitable influence of this old woman was unable to cast its shadow entirely on her family. The most dominant of her children, the most endowed with the gift of personality and wit, was Wallace. At the end of the sixth year of his marriage, he was occupying one of the beautiful new houses of the town. His wife rode in imported motor cars and the pair formed the nucleus of one of the notoriously chic and gay social sets in the town.

The catastrophe which the old woman had so doggedly foreseen as inevitable came, however, sooner than even she expected. A terrified, horrified and blasted group of her large family met one evening in the sitting room of the old homestead to confront, in their plight and terrifying dilemma, the hard, cold eyes of the Grandmother.

Wallace had committed the unspeakable. Incredible as it might seem, the shades of the prison house were about to cast their ominous reflection around this impeccable family. Handcuffs hovered over the wrists of Wallace. He had defaulted and was about to abscond.

It was a grim and panic-stricken meeting of a gay clan.

The old woman in her high-backed chair presided like some menacing Fury. Bitter, indicting words rattled off the thin ridge of her lips. She took occasion to scourge, not only the stricken figure of her son, seated there before her in the limp attitude of defeat, but every member of the family.

Wastrels, spendthrifts, irresponsibles, cheats. Self-satiation had been their undoing. Lack of moral responsibility, selfishness, pretense, extravagance. Her scorn of them crackled from her old lips. And all the while her son, defeated sat before her, with his head seeming to drop down into the slot of his shoulders and his horror of the punishment of the law that was going to descend upon him creasing his face and aging him.

It was then that the Grandmother reached out her claw-like hand and touched his head lightly. It was the first gesture of affection her children had seen from her in years; a curious, hesitant, embarrassed gesture that somehow was painful. It was then that the Grandmother, also, from boxes and drawers that she ordered servants to bring to her, began to tilt upon the old family dining table the riches of her resources. Pearls. The square diamond ring. The thousand-dollar bill from Wallace, sapphire and diamond earrings, pendants, bracelets, more jewels and expensive decorations of every conceivable type. And from one drawer alone, bank notes, piles of them, that had the quality of fluttering out like live fingers unfolded, insinuatingly.

The table top might have been strewn with the yield of a pirate's chest. Thousands and tens of thousands lay in bulk there.

The moment which Grandmother had dreaded and foreseen had arrived. Her children were in need of what she had hoarded for them.

Sitting there, chastened, the shades of the prison house began to recede from the face of her son, Wallace.

### Always Silver Linings to the Darkest Clouds

Father's sprained wrist gives him a good deal of pain; that is, when he uses it for lifting heavy objects such as wheelbarrows and spading forks. The doctor says that the best thing for it is rest, so that all he can do is sit in the house and read.

The destruction of the car in the fire was most unfortunate and entailed considerable loss. But, on the other hand, it settled the question of getting a new one, which is a joy to look at.

Little Johnny's breaking out with chicken pox is a nuisance, as all such contagious diseases are. However, it would never do to ask Sally Brown to come for her visit and run the risk of catching it. The only thing to do is to get her to put it off for another six months.

The cook's sudden departure has left the family in a decidedly upset condition. But with no one to watch over the children it will be virtually impossible to attend the subscription dinner in the interest of respect for the flag. The rain which beat in through the open window damaged the wall paper beyond repair. It will be imperative now to paper in the spring instead of waiting indefinitely.

The death of Mrs. Jones' mother was most distressing. And now that Mrs. Jones must go into mourning she will have to make some disposition among her friends of the lovely clothes she brought back from Paris, as they will be out of style before she gets back into colors again.

The moths have eaten large holes in father's cutaways. Poor man, he will be unable to wear it to weddings and such functions hereafter and will have to be content with a plain sack suit that does not bind him so tightly around the waist. Now, if mother could only be caught in a drenching rain while wearing the brown silk which she bought at a bargain and has never liked, life would be complete.—Baltimore Sun.

## Would Eliminate Black Currants

Cultivated Plants Threaten to Destroy White-Pine Forests.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

Because of the relatively small value of cultivated black currants in this country and the role of these plants in the spread of white-pine blister rust, a disease which threatens to destroy our white-pine forests, United States Department of Agriculture recommends that farmers and nurserymen and the public generally discontinue growing these currants in regions where white pines grow.

**Carriers of Blister Rust.**  
In its fight to save the white-pine forests of the country, the department recognizes other varieties of currants and gooseberries as potential carriers of the blister rust disease, but the cultivated black currant, sometimes known as the English black currant, is by far the most susceptible to the rust. This variety is responsible for spread of the disease over long distances, department specialists declare.

Compared to cultivated black currants, other species of currants and gooseberries are relatively resistant to blister rust, the department says. However, in the course of a season the disease may spread from the original black currant center, to any type of currant or gooseberry. This is caused by successive cycles of the summer stage of the rust.

**How Disease Is Spread.**  
Farmers' Bulletin 1398-F, "Currants and Gooseberries: Their Culture and Relation to White Pine Blister Rust," a publication just issued by the department in revised form, tells how to grow these plants and explains how they spread the rust disease. In some sections currants and gooseberries are commercial crops, and the department does not wish to interfere with this industry any more than is necessary to protect the white-pine forests, the bulletin says.

So great is the danger from cultivated black currants, however, that the department is asking state authorities, nurserymen, and farmers to help eliminate this plant entirely in the Pacific, Rocky mountain, Atlantic, Appalachian, Ohio valley, upper Mississippi valley, and Lakes states.

Copies of Farmers' Bulletin 1398-F may be obtained free from the Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### Prune Young Trees for More Profitable Yields

Although butchering young apple trees with the pruning shears is a poor practice, the training of permanent trees so that they will develop into vigorous, strong trees capable of carrying their crops is an essential part of profitable orchard management, declares F. H. Beach, extension specialist in horticulture at Ohio State university.

While the unpruned young tree will grow more rapidly, have the greatest size for its age, and come into bearing earlier than heavily pruned trees, he says, it does not follow that training the trees with the help of the pruning shears should be overlooked. Light pruning that aids in developing the modified leader type of tree and that prevents splitting from weak crotches is highly desirable.

The modified leader type of tree, Beach points out, is secured by allowing one central branch to continue through the lower part of the tree. Other branches from which the scaffold branches may be developed will grow from the central branches at different heights and positions. In this way it is fairly easy to prevent crowded heads and weak crotches.

It is best, he states, to allow the lowest limb to grow on the southwest side of the tree so as to prevent sunscald injury. Relatively light pruning may also be given this side of the tree.

### Old Age Fast Removing Many Soils From Service

Old age is fast removing many soils from use in Illinois as nature removes humans, according to E. A. Norton, University of Illinois. Nature and man are both contributors to the aging of soils, says Norton, and man is the greater offender as he has removed the protective covering of soil and allowed the rains to gully the land. Removing crops continually from the land has depleted the fertility and moisture holding capacity.

Good management of soils prevents their aging and as in man it preserves youth. Old age in soils is shown by gray soils, acidity, well-defined surface, subsurface and subsoil and scanty supply of plant foods. These soil characteristics compare with gray hair, lack of activity and conservatism in man.

### Nitrogen for Celery

In Ohio the use of a nitrogen carrier gave a marked increase in the growth of celery. Four hundred pounds per acre of a readily available nitrogen carrier used as a side dressing produced an increase of over 8,000 pounds of celery per acre.

All plots in the experiment received a basic treatment of a half ton of a 2-8-16 fertilizer. In comparison to the marked increase from the additional nitrogen, doubling either the potash or superphosphate increased the yields only about one-tenth.

## Mushroom Diseases and Their Control

'Bubbles' and 'Plaster Mold' Cause of Big Loss.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

Two diseases of mushrooms, known as "bubbles" and "plaster mold," are responsible for great losses to mushroom growers, say Vera K. Charles and C. H. Popenoe in Circular 27-C, "Some Mushroom Diseases and Their Carriers," recently issued in revised form by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Bubbles," probably the disease of greatest importance to the industry, deforms the plants from the beginning of growth. It is caused by a fungus which at first covers the plants with a cottony growth and later disappears, after which the mushrooms soften and rot. The fungus works its way into the wood of the mushroom bed and lives there from year to year unless killed by fumigation. For control, the infected manure must be removed, the beds and house must be fumigated with sulphur or formaldehyde, and care and sanitary measures must be exercised to prevent workmen or insects from carrying the fungus spores to an uninfected bed or house.

"Plaster mold" does not attack the mushroom directly, but the disease is caused by a fungus that runs through the manure and prevents or delays development of the spawn. The plaster mold appears on the surface and sides of the bed as white patches which may be seen when the boards are raised. When mature the fungus is coated with powdery spores that separate and are carried readily to wind or insects. These are likely to spread the disease. Plaster mold has been serious in recent years. It reduces mushroom yields and frequently causes complete failure of the crop.

Mushroom flies and other insects common in mushroom houses distribute the disease spores. They can be controlled with pyrethrum nicotine, or hydrocyanic acid gas.

As sanitation measures, infected manure should be moved to a safe distance from the mushroom house and manure used for replacement should come from a place free from contamination. Manure never should be piled close to the mushroom house.

Circular 27-C may be obtained from the office of information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### Korean Lespedeza Best Sown in Early Spring

Korean lespedeza is best sown in the spring during late March or early April. It may be sown with oats immediately after the seed grain has been covered, or 10 days to two weeks later, after the grain crop is up. The time of seeding on wheat may well be delayed until April, after the danger of severe freezes is past. Seedlings should be made, however, before the ground has dried out and while the surface soil is alternately freezing by night and thawing by day. If the sowing is later the wheat ground should be harrowed before the lespedeza seed is put in.

Korean lespedeza establishes itself more quickly where the ground is firm and well packed. For that reason it is more likely to succeed and make a larger growth the first season if sown on wheat rather than with oats. The seed is not difficult to sow and may be distributed by a grass-clover seeder, by a wheelbarrow seeder, or by a grass-clover attachment on a grain drill.

### Destroy Scale Insects Very Early in Spring

There are probably to exceed five broods of the San Jose scale per year. It has been estimated that even with four broods, a single female's progeny would number 3,216,080,400 in a season. To figure the progeny in view of a fifth brood would make the figures incomprehensible. Thus it is seen that it is very important to destroy the insects before the breeding season as a plant only slightly attacked in the spring may be covered, as well as the fruit, by fall. With millions of scales with their beaks thrust into the plant, pumping out the sap and poisoning the tissues, a tree will succumb in from one to three years if the scales are not checked by spraying, natural conditions or parasites.

### Agricultural Notes

Clover or alfalfa sown in the spring should make a cutting of hay by late summer.

The celery cabbages are attractive salad vegetables. They can be grown at home.

Seldom does the cost of an hour of horse labor fall below 12 cents or exceed 30 cents.

The New Jersey State college finds that egg plants on highly acid soils are less likely to be damaged by wilt than on soils containing lime.

Experiments at the Pennsylvania State college reveal that nitrogenous fertilizers should be applied to sod orchards in the spring soon after the tips of the branch buds begin to show gray and before the blossom buds show pink.

## Soothes restless, wakeful CHILD

THERE are times when a baby is too fretful or feverish to be sung to sleep. There are some pains a mother cannot pat away. But there's no time when any baby can't have the quick comfort of Castoria! A few drops, and your little one is soon at ease—back to sleep almost before you can slip away.

Remember this harmless, pure vegetable preparation when children are ailing. Don't stop its use when Baby has been brought safely through the age of colic, diarrhea, and other infantile ills. Give good old Castoria until your children are in their teens! Whenever coated tongues tell of constipation; when there's any sign of sluggishness,

**Early Food Protection**  
The first protective food law on record was English and bears the date of 1203.

Acid stomach, heartburn and nausea are corrected with the use of Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills. They're Sugar Coated. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

**In a Nutshell**  
The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to like what one has to do.

If love would only make men's cash go round they wouldn't worry about the revolutions of the world.

Somebody is always pointing out violations of the Constitution.



just give them a more liberal dose. Castoria is so pleasant-tasting; all children love to take it.

Look for Chas. H. Fletcher's signature and this name-plate:



**Protect**  
A Chicago citizen rushed into the city hall and stopped the nearest official.

"Sir, I have been held up by a bandit. As a taxpayer, I protest."  
"And you are quite right. Bandits have no business collecting taxes."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the original little liver pills put out 60 years ago. They regulate liver and bowels.—Adv.

**Hoping**  
Husband (reading poem)—You don't seem to be interested in this. Wife—Of course I am, dear. Is it very much longer?—Answers.

No grapefruit squirts like a carelessly opened milk bottle.



## Any COLD

That cold may lead to something serious, if neglected. The time to do something for it is now. Don't wait until it develops into bronchitis. Take two or three tablets of Bayer Aspirin as soon as you feel a cold coming on. Or as soon as possible after it starts. Bayer Aspirin will head off or relieve the aching and feverish feeling—will stop the headache. And if your throat is affected, dissolve two or three tablets in a quarter-glassful of warm water, and gargle. This quickly soothes a sore throat and reduces inflammation and infection. Read proven directions for neuralgia, for rheumatism and other aches and pains. Genuine Bayer Aspirin is harmless to the heart.

## BAYER ASPIRIN

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocroticacidester of Salicylicacid

### Miserable with Backache?

A Bad Back Often Warns of Disordered Kidneys.

ARE you bothered with constant backache, bladder irritations and getting up at night? Then don't take chances! Help your kidneys with Doan's Pills. Successful for more than 50 years. Endorsed the world over. Sold by dealers everywhere.



50,000 Users Publicly Endorse Doan's:

I. J. CLARK, 47 N. OAKLEY AVE., COLUMBUS, OHIO, says: "My kidneys didn't act as they should and backache made me feel worn out and miserable. I had to pass the secretions four or five times every night. Headaches and dizziness blurred my sight. My strength was going and I didn't feel good at all. Doan's Pills did me of the trouble."

## Doan's Pills

A Diuretic for the Kidneys

### Cuticura Users The world over Indorse Cuticura preparations Used to Relieve Ailments of the skin.

Experiments at the Pennsylvania State college reveal that nitrogenous fertilizers should be applied to sod orchards in the spring soon after the tips of the branch buds begin to show gray and before the blossom buds show pink.