Nazi Boss, Church Foe, Reported Alive; Convert Son Plans To Enter Priesthood

By RAY JORDAN

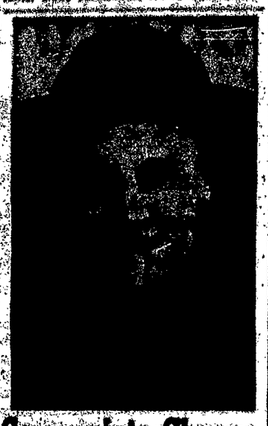
Washington — (NC) — Martin Bormann, Jr., son of the missing Nazi leader, does not consider the disappearance of his father still being alive, although so far he has been unable to obtain any corroborating evidence. This is the information he gave me after I had called him on a report purporting to prove that Bormann, is now hiding in the primeval forests of southern Chile.

Young Bormann is now a student at St. Cardinal High School in Frankenfels, Bavaria. After his graduation in summer he expects to begin his studies for the priesthood next fall. Some day he hopes to be a missionary.

HE BECAME A convert to the Catholic Faith after having been raised in pagan nazi creeds and in an atmosphere utterly hostile to the Church. The message he gave me about his father was prompted by an article by Paul Hesslein in a recent issue of the Vienna weekly, Die Christliche Furche, which I passed on to him for comment. Martin Bormann, Sr., was Hitler's Nazi Party boss, a general in the Hitlerite SS and chief executive of the nazi party chancery. He was generally considered the lieutenant for of the Catholic Church and besides Hitler himself, utterly responsible for the persecution by the nazi regime. At the end of the war in 1945 he disappeared without leaving a trace. The Nuremberg war crimes tribunal sentenced him to death "in contumaciam," assuming that he had escaped, probably overseas.

PAUL HESSLEIN, former member of the Reichstag as a Catholic Center Party deputy, has been an exile in Chile for some 20 years, having been blacklisted by the nazis. On October 24 last year he was interviewed by the Santiago daily, El Mercurio, and told the story of how he accidentally came across Martin Bormann in February, 1946.

At the time this report was widely circulated, but doubts arose regarding the authenticity of Mr. Hesslein's information. Mr. Hesslein now corroborates it and gives ample details in his Furche article. (Die Furche is published by Dr. Friedrich Funder, N.C.W.C. news Service correspondent in Vienna and dean of Catholic journalists in Europe.)



Mr. Hesslein writes that in February, 1946, he was a guest of the late Count Han Ulrich von Reichenbach, a former German and now Argentinian national, on his estate near Lake Ranco Sur in southern Chile. There Mr. Hesslein first heard of Bormann's having escaped from Germany in a submarine at the end of the war and having landed in Patagonia.

ON AN EXCURSION to the village of Lilfen, near the Argentinian border, Mr. Hesslein met three men on horseback and immediately identified one of them as Bormann. In the pre-Hitler days Mr. Hesslein had frequently seen Bormann at Reichstag sessions. According to Mr. Hesslein's information, Bormann now lives under the assumed name of Juan Gomez in the region of Todos Los Santos (All Saints), Chile, but plans to return to Germany soon, via Spain, in the hope of again being called upon to play an important part in the destinies of his country—"once war breaks out with Russia . . ."

Bormann's son, after reading this account, said that it does not sound incredible by any means, although so far he has never obtained any proof of his father still being alive. He immediately wrote to the Vienna Furche asking for Mr. Hesslein's address. He hopes to get further details from the latter about his persumed encounter.

No doubt it would come as a distinct shock to Martin Bormann, Sr., were he to learn that his own son may one day become a priest of the very Church he foought so bitterly.

Communists Change Abp. Beran Prison

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague has been removed to a remote concentration monastery in order to prevent further contacts with the faithful, according to a report reaching this country.

A previous report had stated that the Archbishop was held in a castle near Moravska Ostrava in northeast Moravia. The latest report states that crowds of faithful had gathered under the window of the prelate at the castle to get his blessing. To prevent this tribute to the Archbishop the Red authorities have now deported him to a monastery 30 miles north of the Austrian border. The concentration monastery is said to be surrounded by a high wall.

Presbyterian Group Raps 'Mercy Killing'

Cincinnati — (NC) — Official opposition to agitation to legalize "mercy killing" was voiced by the General Council of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., as it brought a two-day closed session to an end, and it was announced that the 163rd General Assembly of the Church would be asked to take action.

THE GENERAL Council noted that many Protestant clergymen, "including members of our own church," have signed petitions advocating the legalization of "mercy killing" and said the General Assembly would be asked "to issue such a statement on the Presbyterian attitude toward this problem as will inform our church of the serious danger inherent in the movement."

"Euthanasia is in direct conflict with the interpretation of the Sixth Commandment," the Council reports said, "and legislation would open the door to more dangerous and vicious practices.

"Any encouragement given by our church to practice euthanasia, or to legislation permitting it, would be contrary to the well-being of the nation."

Pius X Body Newly Garbed For Rites

Vatican City — (NC) — A second "recognition" of the remains of Pope Pius X took place here May 28 in the closed Basilica of St. Peter's by ecclesiastical and medical authorities. Following this the body was garbed in new vestments and placed in a special new coffin preliminary to being placed on public view for veneration by the faithful on the day of his beatification, June 3, and for some days afterward.

It was reported that the new vestments were provided by the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary together with some lay persons and a Mrs. F. Bird of New York.

Dachau Cross In Vienna Church

Vienna — (RNS) A wooden cross which formerly stood in the Dauchu Nazi concentration camp was installed in St. Michael's Roman Catholic church here after being solemnly blessed by Coadjutor Archbishop Franz Jachym of Vienna.

The cross was brought here by a group of former Dachau inmates who petitioned to have it placed in the church because it had given them hope and strength during their imprisonment.

A large marble cross marks the spot in Dachau where the wooden cross used to stand.

Maryknoll Nun From Rochester, Veteran Missioner, Figures In 'Pacific Hopscotch'

A former Rochester girl, now a Maryknoll Sister in China, appears prominently in PACIFIC HOPSCOTCH, recently published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

She is Sister Mary Magdalena Urlacher, one of Maryknoll's veterans in the China missions. She accompanied the author of PASIFIC HOPSCOTCH on a week-long trip up the river in China. The author is Sister Maria del Rey, once a newspaper reporter, who toured the Maryknoll missions in the Orient. She describes the former Rochester-ite at the beginning of Chapter 2:

"Sister Magdalena is an old China missioner — old, that is, for a Maryknoller. We can't point to anyone yet who is 56 years in China as was Mother St. Dominic of the Helpers of the Holy Souls, nor to anyone like Sister Berkeley of the White Cornette Sisters of Charity who was a one-man army for good in the Shanghia area for 60 years.

"BUT SISTER MAGDALENA has rolled up 14 years in China and stands in with our ancients there.

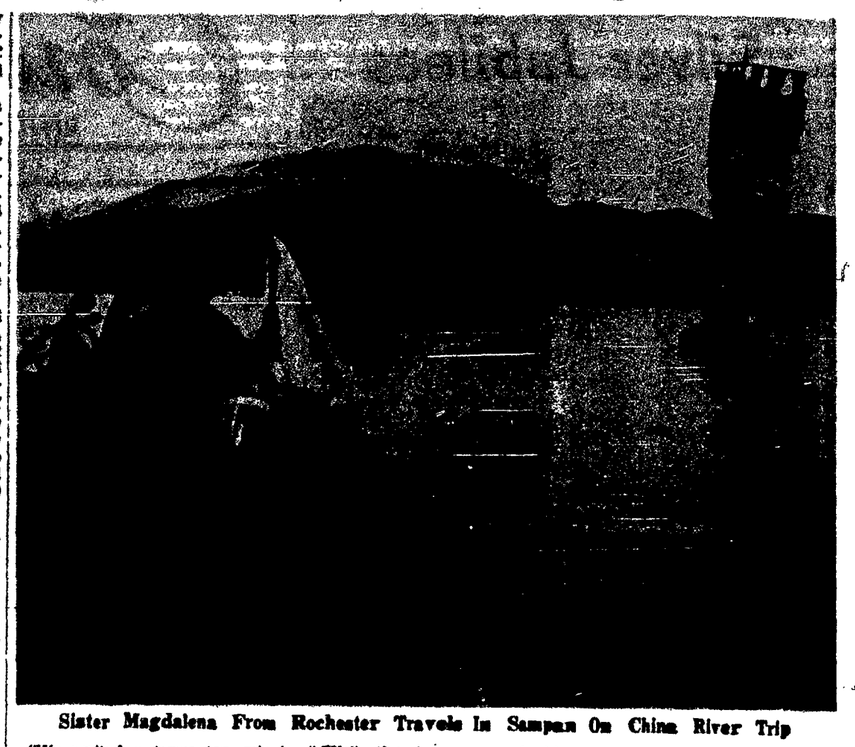
"At any rate, she is thoroughly China-ized. She wears her collars rather loose and is addicted to shoes with inch-thick sponge rubber soles. (Such a comfort when you walk twenty miles some place!) But the high of complete acclimation, the final stage of identification with her people, is the glaze of calm that coats her eye after weary waiting. You realize then that, in spite of being an American, Sister Magdalena really doesn't care if the bus is five hours late or not.

"So I was delighted to knew that we would go up the river together on a sampan. We would spend a week on the floor, never changing our clothese or taking them off. We would eat Chinese food with chopsticks. Best of all, we would enjoy a youngster's dream of cleanliness; everything south of the chin and north of the wrists is off-limits to soap and water. Living so, I knew I would not only hear and see China, but feel it right down to the marrow of my bones."

On the trip the Sister encountered Communist customs collectors and outwitted them, due to Sister Magdalena's ability to make friends of the Chinese boatmen:

"It was the third day out of Swatow going up the river. Three days of eating, sleeping, sitting, typing, reading and general living on the floor had not done a handbox job in our appearance. Even the old faces were none too bright. But sometimes, we learned that afternoon, it helps not to be too up-and-coming.

"TWO SHOTS RANG out from the shore in the middle afternoon. It was the usual signal from Communist customs officials, and our motorboat with its string of sampans swung over to the shore for inspection.



Sister Magdalena From Rochester Travels In Sampan On China River Trip

"We waited a tense ten minutes. The boat people tucked small packages up under the roof or in holes here and there. Ah Gno Tai hastily took her earings off.

"Our stuff was too big to hide. We glanced at the cases of clothes and food we were bringing up for the poor and for our Sisters; we cast an apprehensive eye on the radio for Father and the new typewriter, and said a prayer to St. Matthew. He was a customs man himself, you recall, and knows just what to do with them.

"First came a ragged little urchin wearing a blue cap of cotton cloth with a red star appliqued on the front. Then there was a glittering light and the customs man himself stood before us. We soon saw what made him glitter. Every finger he had, including the thumb, bore rings —and such rings! Great red stones, hunks of diamonds, heavy gold. I wondered thathe could write.

"He pulled a pen from his pocket, took out a sheaf of papers from a natty little briefcase and looked at the two of us sitting there on the floor with our feet straight out.

"'Where from?'

"'From Swatow.'

"'I mean, before that.'

"'From America.'

"We knew the implications of that. Orientals think any American at all is Rockefeller.

"'What have you got there?'

"SISTER MAGDALENA gulped a bit.

"'Well, there's a case of old clothese there, and a cabinet for food over there, and a sewing machine beyond that, and books in that case . . .'

"He strode around pointing to box after box, looking pretty happy about it all.

"Then the boatmen swarmed in on him.

"'Don't believe anything she says,' they cautioned. 'There's nothing worth while on this boat. We kno w everything she's got and it isn't anything at all.'

"HIS RED EMINENCE hesitated and they played their trump card. Do you think if the Catholic Church had anything of value going up this river, they would send two women like those two to bring it up? Ah, no. This shipment is not enough for you to trouble your honorable self about.'

"The customs official smiled magnanimously, and flipped his glittering hand. 'Pity is commendable when spent on such,' he said, and asked for $200 Hong Kong, about $40 gold, an extreme low tax."

A story of Sister Magdalena's understanding of the essential Chinese charater is also told:

"I gave the little boy, once, a picture of some cows. He showed them to the riverman that evening as they cuddled together on the prow, the old man smoking his long, knotty walking stick of a pipe, the child asking questions.

"'They're elephants, child,' the old fellow said, pointing to the cows. And what's more, he meant it.

"We said nothing. What's the use, when neither one would ever see cows or elephants?

"But one of the younger boatmen knew a thing or two.

"'Elephants? You're crazy! They're the water buffalo they have in America.' This was a big surprise; young Chinese do not contradict their elders.

"OF COURSE, the question came to us. And here is where Sister Magdalena showed how China-wise she is.

"'You have observed well, Honorable Grandfather,' she said. 'Elephants are not dissimilar. They also have four legs and thin tails. We call them "cows".' Pretty good; she upheld the old man, gave a neat rebuff to the upstart, and told the truth."

Sister Magdalena is a nurse, the former Miss Catherine Urlacher of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Rochester.

She is a graduate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parochial school and of Nazareth Academy in Rochester. She trained as a nurse in the Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Seattle, Washington.

Her brothers, George and John Urlacher, live in Chamaye Road, Rochester.

PACIFIC HOPSCOTCH is the lively story of a thousand women, who literally go around the world doing good. They are the Maryknoll Sisters, whose missions are scattered over hundreds of thousands of square miles in the Far East — China, the Philippines, Palau, Japan, Korea and Hawaii.

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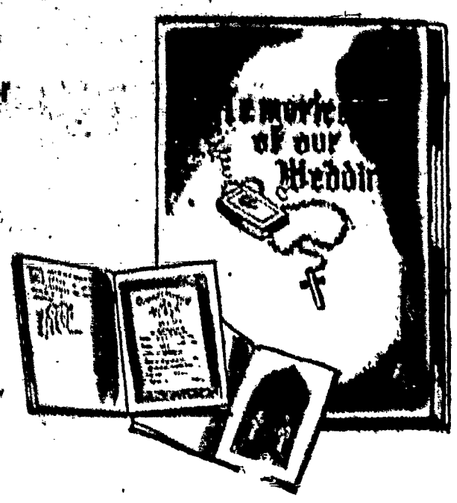

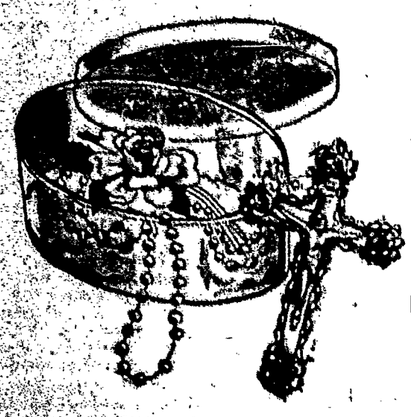

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