INTER-COLLEGIATE TRACK MEET

By W. E. Hill



Pagan Customs Revived for Nazi Weddings

Blood Purity Is Stressed

By SIGRID SCHULTZ

Berlin, Germany. IRE, BLOOD, and race play the leading parts in the mystic rites by which couples are joined in the neopagan marriage ceremonies of the "German faith movement." The 'sacred fire," burning in a cresset before a bust of Hitler flanked by swastika flags, is to symbolize the sun worship of ancient days. Into it is cast a wreath of flowers-denoting maidenhood - which the bride wears, and which is then replaced by a wreath of green leaves which signify womanhood.

The exchanging of rings, presented to the bridal couple on a platter inscribed with the marriage runes of the ancient Germanic tribes, and the singing of the national anthems complete the ceremonies as prescribed in a booklet of directions issued by the publishing company of the German faith movement.

Girl and boy speakers, preferably dressed in the uniforms of the Nazi youth movements, bear smoking

Pagan fires (above at right) burn in Germany as Nazi girls, a typical group of whom are seen below, go through new

marriage rites.

lows this declamation, providing the musical background for the exchange

A woman speaker reminds the bride of her duties:

We women of the people,

Mothers of the people, We tend the holy embers of the harthstone.

We guide young blood to the light. We give our directions from eternal

spiritual goods. We preserve life To give the coming generations holy

sparks. We strive out of darkness; we love

The concluding words of the cere-

mony are those of Hitler, giving the bridal couple its final directives: "We see in woman the eternal

mother of our people and the comrade through life, work, and battle of the man."

Following these words all rise and sing the Deutschland anthem and the Horst Wessel song. Then the bride and bridegroom walk slowly out, while the guests silently extend the Hitler salute.

The booklet of directions issues exhaustive instructions to "insure the smooth functioning of the ceremony, since in the past frequent mistakes have been made which disturbed the solemnity of the occasion." There are diagrams showing how the ceremonial room should be prepared. Thus in the indoor ceremony the Hitler bust takes the center of the scene -before it is the sacred fire, flanked on either side by torches, with two bridal chairs placed before it. The seats for the guests form an aile through which the couple walks.

"If the bridegroom belongs to one of the Nazi formations," state the directions, "his comrades of the formation should form a line on either side of the aile. Thus during the heil greeting the couple walks beneath an arch of upraised arms."

For the outdoor ceremony "the most suitable spot is a meadow with a memorial oak or linden tree." Instead of a fire in a cresset, a wood fire is lit. "Around the fire a triple line of large stones is to be laid," according to the directions. The tree in this case is flanked by Nazi flags, with the torchbearers taking their places on either side of it, lighting the fire with their blazing flares.

torches and declaim measured chants These words, in a setting of smokwhich remind the bride and brideing torches and leaping flame, are groom of their duties to the nation intended to conjure up the ghosts of and the future. The sacred fire, symthe past and the future within the bol of the sun, is addressed by a minds of the marrying couple. The solemn phrases of Nietzsche's "Zarayoung speaker: thustra" give warning to the bride-Holy flame, related to the sun, flare

upward! You are to stand for purity and honor, Showing the light to the couple In the darkness of night.

You are to inflame burning love, Love of the homeland, of the clan, of the people.

Purity of blood and the duties to coming generations, as well as obligations to the past, are reflected in the lines declaimed by a young girl: You are not today, nor are you to-

morrow; You are a thousand years before you And a thousand years after. A thousand years have watched over

your blood So that you could become as you are. Care for your blood, so that The following generations of the thousand years after Will give you thanks.

I have one question, brother, for you I ask you, are you the man who may desire children? Are you the victor over self,

The master of your virtues? Or does The animal, the need, or loneliness Speak from your desire? I want your victory and your freedom to yern For a child. You must build living monuments.

The commander of your senses,

You must create a higher body, A first movement, A wheel rolling of itself. I call marriage The will of two to create one which

Is more than they who created it. The adagio movement from Beethoven's "Pathetique" symphony fol-



Field Marshal Goering, then a general, with his bride, the former Emmy Sonnemann, actress, after their elaborate state wedding before introduction of the pagan rituals that now are observed.