

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur François Chatelain, at present 1st Secretary at the Swiss Embassy in Washington to the post of Consul-General in Bombay.

M. Chatelain was born in 1917, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied political and economic science at the University of Geneva, and entered the Political Department in 1940. He has occupied successively posts in Teheran, Besançon and Singapore.

\* \* \*

Mr. Theodor Haeblerlin, of the Federal Political Department has been appointed Swiss Consul at Laurengo-Marques. The new Consul, a citizen of Illighausen (Ct. Thurgau) entered the Consular Service in 1932, and successively held posts in Sao Paulo, Caracas, Lisbon, Copenhagen, Bogota and Quito.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council gave the traditional dinner to the foreign diplomats and their ladies, accredited to the Confederation. Amongst the Swiss guests — apart from the members of the Federal Council — were the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the Confederation, the President of the National and States Councils, the Presidents of the Federal Supreme Court, and the Federal Insurance Court, the Presidents of the Governments of the cantons of Berne, Solothurn and Ticino (in fixed rotation), the Mayor of the town of Berne, the Presidents of the Swiss Federal Railways and the Post, Telegraph & Telephone administration, and a number of high functionaries of the Federal administration.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.7 million passengers in the month of December 1959, or 300,000 fewer than in December 1958. December: 30.2 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.35 million tons, which is 370,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 47.7 million francs (December 1958: 35.1 million francs).

### Cantonal

The Indian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur M. Vellodi, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Uri. A luncheon and reception was given to the distinguished visitor. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two farmers, Joh. Schuler (67) of Spiringen, and Xaver Schuler (66) of Unterschaechen, whilst descending from the train on the wrong side at the railway station at Intschi (Ct. Uri), were killed by an oncoming train. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1959 of the canton of Uri close with a deficit of 156,373.— francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two trains of the Stansstad-Engelberg railway collided at the "Gherst" crossing. Twenty persons were injured and had to be taken to hospital. The damage caused to the two trains is considerable. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Dr. Heinrich Straumann, *Ordinarius* of the philosophical faculty of the University of Zurich, has been elected rector of the University for 1960/62. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts of the canton of Zurich for 1959, show a credit-balance of 7,856,596.— francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Three young men who escaped from a remand home, entered the dependence of the Wildermeth hospital in Bienne with the intent of committing a burglary. They were surprised by a sixty-five year old hospital nurse whom they attacked and seriously injured. On her calling for help the thugs took to their heels. All three were later arrested. [A.T.S.]

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The restaurant "Schweizerbund" in the Länggass district of Berne was heavily damaged by fire. The damage caused is estimated to be between 250,000.— and 300,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mlle. Alzire Robert, born in 1858 at Le Locle, has entered her 103rd year. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Alfons Roggo (62), since 1956 a member of the Government of the canton of Fribourg, has been elected a member of the States Council, in succession to M. Bourgnicht, who has entered the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the year 1959, 1,185 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Solothurn. 932 persons received injuries of whom 37 succumbed to them. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The watch-makers school at Solothurn has celebrated its 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On leaving the ticket office of the railway station Heuwaag (Basle) a 60 year old railway booking clerk was confronted by a man brandishing a revolver demanding the handing over of the cash-box from which he took 250.— francs and disappeared. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two youths aged eighteen and nineteen respectively, entered the post-office at Maegenwil nr. Lenzburg, and in the absence of the postmaster stole an amount of 3,000.— francs after which they decamped on bicycles. They were later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

From 1st January to 31st December 1959, 4,395 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Vaud. 2,442 persons were injured, of whom 104 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A cyclist, Hermann Strom (73), commercial traveller of Brig, collided with a train at a level crossing between Visp and Brig, and received fatal injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A postal packet containing 20,000.— francs disappeared from the post-office in Brig. An employee of the post-office was later arrested and charged with the theft. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The population of the canton of Neuchâtel at the end of 1959, numbered 143,439. (La Chaux-de-Fonds: 34,000 inhabitants, Neuchâtel: 32,000 inhabitants). [A.T.S.]

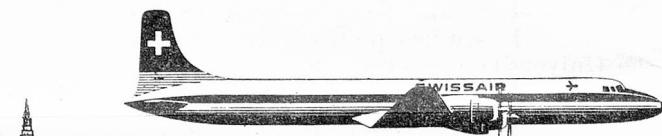
[A.T.S.]

A thief in full daylight entered the premises, by the way of climbing an outside pipe, of a small distillery at the Rue Masbon in the Plainpalais district of Geneva. Whilst ransacking the various rooms, he found a jam-pot containing the amount of 65,000.— francs in bank-notes and disappeared with his booty. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Pierre Jaccoud (54), the former President of the Geneva Bar Association and a politician, was sentenced in Geneva to seven years' imprisonment for murder and attempted murder. His trial had lasted 18 days. The jury of seven men and five women added 10 years loss of civil rights to the prison sentence. Their verdict was by majority vote.

Jaccoud was found guilty of shooting and stabbing a farm machinery salesman, Charles Zumbach (62), and attempting to shoot Marie Zumbach, his wife, on the night of May 1st, 1958 in their suburban house. Jaccoud and the victim had apparently never known each other. But one of Zumbach's sons, André had succeeded Jaccoud in the affections of a woman who had been his mistress for eight years. Jaccoud admitted writing anonymous letters to André Zumbach, enclosing photographs taken of the woman in the nude. Apparently the intention was to break up the love affair.



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There was no incontrovertible proof of Jaccoud's whereabouts at the time of the crime. Circumstantial evidence weighed overwhelmingly against him. A button found outside Zumbach's house corresponded with those on a bloodstained raincoat, with one button missing, found at Jaccoud's house in a parcel of old clothes intended for the Red Cross.

A Moroccan dagger, also found at Jaccoud's house, bore bloodstains. A bicycle was seen outside Zumbach's house on the night of the crime and one which Jaccoud owned had bloodstains.

When Mrs. Zumbach had described her attacker as dark haired, Jaccoud was still at liberty. But he had his hair dyed blond and claimed that the barber made a mistake. Jaccoud was defended by the French barrister, Maître René Floriot.

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

Dr. phil. and Dr. jur. h.c. Alfred Hartmann, in Basle at the age of 76. The deceased was for forty years a teacher at the "Humanistischen Gymnasium" Basle. In 1953, the University of Basle honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. h.c. August Gansser-Burckhardt, eminent chemist and scientist, in Basle aged 84. The deceased received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the University of Basle.

Sister Julie Hofmann, in Lausanne at the age of 93. The deceased was the founder of the "Asyl Ebenezer". For her services rendered, she was

honoured by the University of Lausanne with honorary doctorate. The International Committee of the Red Cross bestowed on her the Florence Nightingale medal. In 1957 the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud made her an honorary citizen of the canton of Vaud.

Dr. Aloys Scheuring, from 1931 to 1933, chief editor of the "Rorschacher Zeitung", and from 1933 to 1939, chief editor of the "Basler Volksblatt", in Basle aged 60.

Werner Baer, partner of the Banking House "Julius Baer & Co." Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 61.

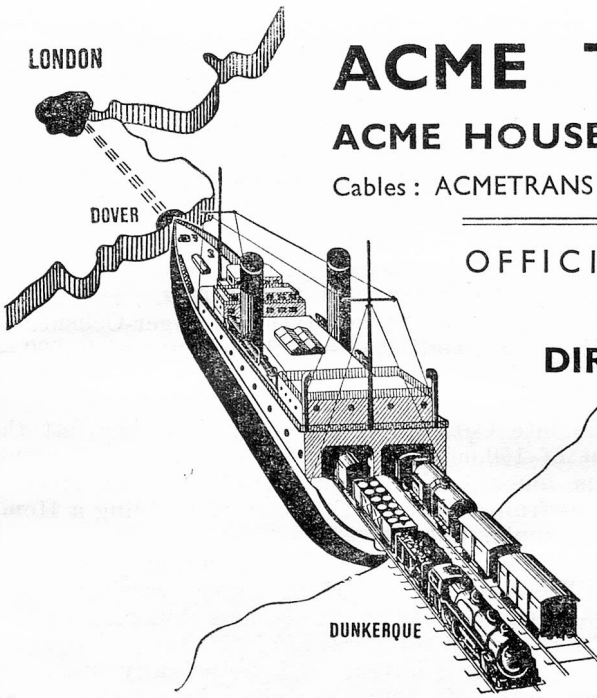
Gody Vogt, a former Restaurateur, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne aged 72.

Dr. Charles Schweizer, from 1940 to 1946 President of the Swiss Chemists Association, and for 15 years he was in the service of the Federal Health Department, in Gersau at the age of 70.

Louis Bernauer, since 1936 "Kantonaler Armeninspektor" in Lucerne aged 53.

Bernard Aeby, from 1942 to 1950, "Kantonsingenieur", Fribourg, in Fribourg at the age of 80.

Dr. h.c. Theodor Staub, founder of the "Schweiz. Blindenmuseum" and the library for the blind, in Zurich aged 96. In 1892, the deceased was appointed a teacher at the "Kantonalen Blindenanstalt", a post which he held for many years. On the occasion of his 84th birthday, the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.



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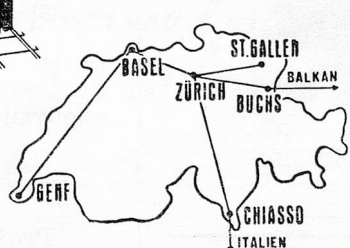
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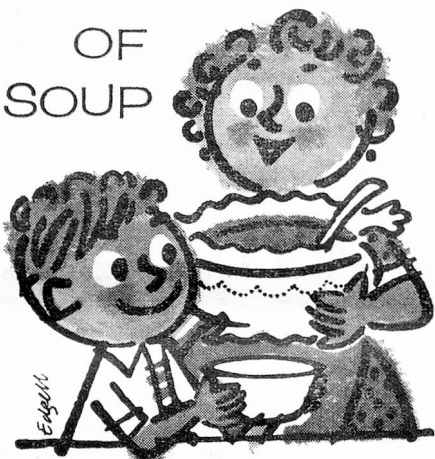
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Dr. Adolf Roemer, since 1936 a member of the Government of the canton of St. Gall, in St. Gall at the age of 71. In the years 1939/40, 1945/46, 1950/51 and 1957/58, the deceased held the post of "Landammann" of the canton of St. Gall.

Colonel Louis Goudet, a former judge at the Geneva Law Court, and during the second world war chief of staff of the 1st army-corps, in Geneva aged 81,

Gottardo Madonna, formerly secretary to the Ticino delegation in the Federal Chambers, and a lecturer (Dozent) of Roman Law at the University of Berne, in Locarno at the age of 80.

Dr. med. J. Beck, a former medical practitioner, and co-founder of the "Krankenhaus" Laufenburg, in Sursee (where he lived in retirement) aged 88.

Karl Matthaei, since 1939 organist at the "Stadtkirche" Winterthur, in Winterthur at the age of 63.

Georges Zellweger-La Nicca, from 1885 to 1941, a member of the Winterthur municipal orchestra, and from 1926 to 1938, President of the "Musikkollegium", in Winterthur aged 91. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### BANK DIVIDEND.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1959: Schweizerische Spar & Kreditbank, St. Gall: 5½ per cent (1958: 5.143%), Bank Leu & Co., A.G., Zurich: 9 per cent (1958: 8%), Schweiz. Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 6 per cent (1958: 5.5%), Hypothekarkasse des Kanton's Freiburg: 5 per cent (1958: 5%), Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Basel: 4½ per cent (1958: 4½%), Schweizerische Volksbank, Bern: 7 per cent (1958: 7%), Schweiz. Bodenkredit Anstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent (1958: 6%), Hypothekarkasse des Kanton's Bern: 5 per cent (1958: 5%), Eigenheim Bank, Basel: 5 per cent (1958: 5%), Schweizerischer Bankverein, Basel: 10 per cent (1958: 9%), Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zurich: 10 per cent (1959: 10%), Handwerkerbank, Basel: 6½ per cent and 1½ per cent (100th jubilee bonus), Leihkasse Neumünster, Zurich: 5½ per cent, and 2½ per cent (100th jubilee bonus), Solothurner Handelsbank: 8 per cent (1958: 7%). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Frau Witwe Mathilda Giger-Ochsner of Andwil (Ct. St. Gall) has left the amount of 10,000.— francs to the "Mütterverein" Andwil-Arnegg for their children's school fund.

The late Carl Schadegg of Herisau has left the amount of 100,000.— francs for charitable purposes. Of this amount the commune of Herisau receives 80,000.— francs towards the costs of building a Home for old people.

The "Bezirksrankenhaus" Herisau, and the "Heil- und Pflegeanstalt" Herisau have received each 21,000.— francs from an anonymous donor.

The Home "Crêt-Berard" in Puidoux, belonging to the Vaudois Church, and principally used for entertainment of young people, has received an anonymous donation of 500,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Rudolf Staub (70) of Castasegno (Ct. Grisons), from 1926 to 1958 Professor of Geology

at the University of Zurich and the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Professor Paul Scherer (70) of Mosnang (Ct. St. Gall) Professor of Physics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and Director of the Physical Institute of the University of Zurich, President of the Swiss Commission "für Atomwissenschaften". The "Jubilar" is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Zurich, Toulouse, Loewen, Geneva, Athens, Freiburg i. Br. and the Commercial University of St. Gall. He is a recipient of the Marcel-Benoist prize and author of a large number of scientific works.

Professor Dr. h.c. Heinrich Barth (70) of Basle, *Ordinarius* for philosophy at the University of Basle. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Kappeler-Reger of Zurich, Mr. and Mrs. Armand Hude-Buvelot, of Nyon.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Freiburghaus-Kuhn of Barzheim (Ct. Schaffhausen) have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The husband is 96 years old, whilst the wife recently celebrated her 91st birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

The number of inhabitants at the end of 1959, of the following towns was given as follows: Berne: 164,779, Winterthur: 78,854, Biel: 57,218. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Villars:— Switzerland's first all-year round artificial ice-rink is to be built and completed by June 15th at a scenic spot in the centre of the world-famous summer and winter resort of Villars, in the Vaudois Alps. "We have had to overcome countless difficulties," said Monsieur Henri Jakob who heads the local tourist association, "but the road has now been cleared and final plans have been made for our ice-stadium. Construction will start as soon as the snow melts. The machinery is already being built at the workshops of the Escher-Wyss Company of Zurich. We are confident that the ice-rink can be opened to the public at the beginning of this coming summer season." Villars and environs extending from 4,000 to over 7,000 feet above sea-level, can accommodate some 1,500 visitors at local hotels. Moreover 400 families can be put up at furnished holiday chalets.

The new ice-stadium with its 100×200 ft. rink will have tiers and stand for 3,000 spectators.

\* \* \*

Gstaad:— Gstaad, a gem of the Bernese Oberland and one of the prettiest resort villages along Switzerland's famous "Golden Pass" linking Montreux, Interlaken and Lucerne, has just announced several highlights of its 1960 Summer Programme. An International Fencing Competition is to take place on July 9th and 10th while the International Tennis Championship Games of Switzerland are arranged for the week of July 17th to 24th. Gstaad's elegant Alpine swimming pool will be the site of a Variety and Bathing-Suit Fashion Show on July 26th and 27th. A Folklore Festival in the traditional Swiss mountain-peasant style is to be held on August 7th. Yehudi Menuhin who is one of several world-famous artist-expatriates now residing at Gstaad, will direct his own Music Festival from August 8th to 18th.

\* \* \*

Montreux — An international television festival which originally was planned for the current year, will now definitely take place at Montreux, on the Lake Geneva Riviera of Switzerland, in the second half of May 1961, it was disclosed here by the organizing committee. According to Edward Haas, Director of the Swiss Television Authority, governmental and independent networks from Africa, Asia, Britain, the Commonwealth countries, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Latin America and the United States have been asked to participate. Television networks from Australia, Argentina, France, Germany, Holland, Mexico, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States have already written in expressing interest in the project. Three main features will determine the activities of this "International Festival of Television Arts and Sciences" as it is termed officially — a global competition of TV variety programmes and musical shows, a TV trade fair specifically geared to the exhibition of studio equipment, and a Mardi-Gras of galas, events, spectacles and celebrations organized in the city itself.

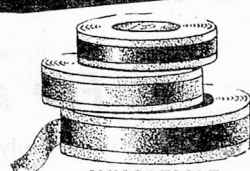
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Zurich:— The traditional Zurich "June" Festival, which actually opens in the last days of May and expands into early July, is to sail under the designation "La France à Zurich" this year. This French touch, as it is obvious from the provisional programme, is due to the participation of celebrated French artists and ensembles. The Zurich Playhouse, for instance, announces a "French Theatre Week"



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featuring at least three famous troupes from Paris including the "Comédie Française", while the Museum of Fine Arts is to take over the complete exhibition of the Paris "Salon de Mai 1960". Soloists from all over the world will be heard at the Tonhalle in the Festival Concerts to be directed by such well-known conductors as Georg Solti, William Steinberg and André Cluytens. A "French Week" will also be held at the Municipal Opera House (Stadttheater) which keeps some more pleasant surprises in store: Tentative mention has been made of the world premiere of Bohuslav Martinu's "Greek Passion", guest performances by top Italian opera companies as well as such high-class dancing troupes as the American Ballet Theatre and Israel's "Inbal".

\* \* \*

Geneva:— The International Automobile Salon, to be held for the 30th time in Geneva from March 10th to 20th, will again display the products of a record number of 18 nations — Germany, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union. The Geneva motor-car show which becomes increasingly important every year, is considered one of the world's trail-blazing exhibitions in the automotive field. In accordance with tradition the "Salon" will be officially opened by the Federal President of Switzerland who this year is Monsieur Max Petitpierre.

\* \* \*

Berne:— The Automobile Club (ACS) and the Touring Club of Switzerland (TCS) has established a joint snow-chain rental service for motorists bound for the country's major winter sports resorts. The chains can be obtained from and returned to any of over 35 garages participating in this new service. It is pointed out by the two Swiss motorists' associations that snow chains or snow tyres can now be declared compulsory for certain mountain roads to prevent congestions due to snow and ice. Warnings to this effect are posted at reasonable distances from the snowed-in areas alongside all roads of access. Throughout Switzerland information on road conditions can also be obtained by dialling telephone Nr. 163. Motorists getting into distress despite all warnings may use one of over 300 "SOS" telephones installed on the Swiss mountain road network. Nr. 11 on the dial will put the message through to the "Auto Rescue Service".

\* \* \*

Leysin:— This former health resort in the Vaudois Alps which has become one of Switzerland's most popular winter sports centres and summer holiday spots, has just added a new attraction to its many resort facilities: a winter sports airport. An agreement has been reached with Hermann Geiger, the celebrated Swiss "Glacier Pilot" and managing director of Sion airport down in the Rhone valley, to the effect that scheduled flights will take place several times a week from Leysin to surrounding starting points of downhill runs. The skiers will be flown to their high-Alpine destinations by helicopters and sport airplanes equipped with ski-like runners for take-offs and landings in the snow. The new "air-lift" to the lower reaches of the eternal snows is likely to become particularly popular with spring and early-summer ski adepts.

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

### ANNUAL DINNER

on Tuesday, 15th March, 1960,  
at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club)  
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

6.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting

7.15 p.m. Reception

7.30 p.m. Dinner (dress informal)

Members wishing to take part at the dinner are requested to notify the Management, "Schweizerbund" (now M. & Mme. Vuistiner), by letter reaching the Club not later than Saturday, 12th March. After dinner, at about 8.30 p.m., the film "Panorama 1959" (Ciné-Journal Suisse) and, if time allows, another film on Switzerland will be presented.

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