

A Swiss Potpourri

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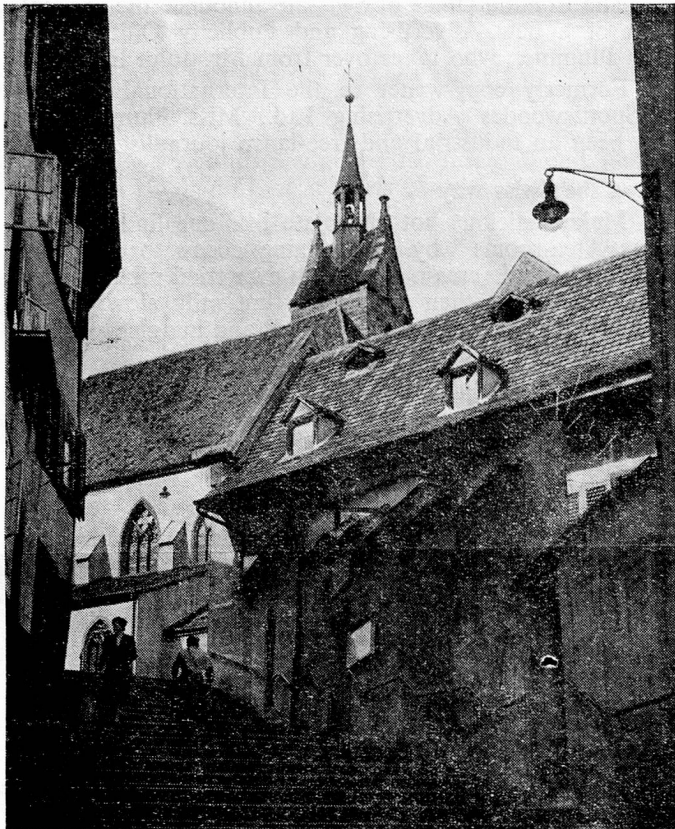
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Folk Dances in Basle

Cheeses were carried on mule-back at Switzerland's first costume festival in ten years, held recently in Basle. Crowds from all over the country thronged trains going to Basle, and filled the streets of the city to watch the folk dances and parades of nearly 3,000 participants. There were bright bodices, full skirts, and lace head-dresses everywhere. Men and children, as well as women, appeared



(Photo: Swiss National Tourist Office)

A view of the old Basle.

in the costumes of their cantons. There were farmers and mountain men in velvet vests and puffed-sleeve denim jackets, gaily embroidered skull caps and widebrimmed country hats. Cows and pigs, goats, bulls and horses ambled through the streets, along with the paraders, gaily caparisoned with flowers and bells. Ten bands played music for the event. Flag hurlers threw cantonal and Swiss standards high into the air, and caught them as they fell.

A SWISS

"With or without Wahlen"

Henry Hazlitt, famous Newsweek columnist, has this to say about our country:

The great blessing of Switzerland is that it has no "strong" man, no indispensable man, and cannot have under its constitution. The two houses of Parliament together elect a Federal Council, consisting of seven members, and one of these is elected President of the Confederation for a term of one year. He cannot succeed himself (except theoretically after the expiration of another year) and in practice the Presidency is rotated annually among the seven members of the council. The President has few powers, and cannot veto bills. The result is that not many outside of Switzerland even know the incumbent President's name. (It happens at the moment to be Wahlen.)

So, while people everywhere wonder what would happen in France without de Gaulle, in Spain without Franco, in India without Nehru, and so on, no one worries what would happen in Switzerland without Wahlen. Everything, it is assumed, would continue to be stable, orderly, and predictable with or without him.

Lucerne: An Ideological Offensive

An ideological offensive in Europe to answer corruption, communism and war has been launched from the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly.

Spearhead by a force of Chinese with their ideological play, "The Dragon", 295 men and women from 30 nations left Caux for Lucerne.

They were invited by a committee of 47 distinguished citizens headed by six members of the Lucerne Cantonal Government and including twelve Federal Members of Parliament, six senators, members of the Cantonal Parliament, leaders of Church, education, the Press, trade unions and business life.

The international force included 45 Chinese led by General Ho Yingchin, former premier of the 500 million people of China, and Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; General Calimerio Santos of Brazil; dockers of the Port of Rio de Janeiro; Muriel Smith and Ann Buckles, Broadway stars of "The Crowning Experience"; Mrs. Anthony Quinn, wife of Hollywood actor Anthony Quinn and daughter of Cecil B. de Mille; former Mau Mau leaders and white settlers from Kenya; and Conrad Hunte, international sportsman from the West Indies.

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POTPOURRI

The invitation to Lucerne was delivered by Dr. Edward Guebelin, internationally known jeweller, at a session of the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly attended by Prime Minister U Nu of Burma. Dr. Guebelin declared, "Our city will be a platform from which the light of Moral Re-Armament is thrown forth to all nations. As a Catholic city we have a special task and obligation to Catholic nations, particularly Italy and Latin America. Lucerne will launch 'The Dragon' on its way through Italy, Germany and Africa."

"The Dragon" was written and produced at the MRA World Assembly by the Chinese ideological force which has been sent from Taiwan for one year's training in Moral Re-Armament. Special performances of the play have been given in Caux for Prime Minister U Nu of Burma, Japan, and Madame Kasavubu, wife of the Congolese head of state.

To save Morcote

Morcote is a village lost in the Alps of the Tessin. To-day it is half forgotten. Its ancient chalets and church are uncared for and falling into ruin.

In the Valais, near Savièse, the historical chapel of the Corbelins stands on a hilltop. Tradition tells us of the miracles which took place here in the Middle Ages, when stillborn children were brought to life for a few short breaths so that they could be baptised. Around the church are the children's graves, and a stained-glass window depicts the miracles.

Above the Rhone River, in the canton of Geneva, there stands a church which dates back to the 13th century. Located at Peney, the church is part of a fortified castle and is in urgent need of repairs.

These national monuments, including the town of Morcote, are a part of the Swiss heritage which the *Société d'art publics* or *Heimatschutz*, as they are known in the German-speaking cantons, are trying to preserve and restore. To raise the necessary funds, school children throughout Switzerland sell chocolate coins wrapped in gold paper each year.

And Swiss children are now stopping pedestrians in the streets throughout the country and asking them to buy packages of the chocolate coins. Purchasing them will help safeguard a part of Swiss culture.

Top Yodeller on TV Show

Jack Parr, American TV personality, left Switzerland leaving behind instructions and an airplane ticket — for the Swiss star he discovered in Zurich to follow him to take part in one of his shows.

The star is 20-year-old Zurich musician, Peter Hinnen, a member of the noted Swiss band at Zurich's Kindli Restaurant, who will yodel on the "Parr Show" for the same fee as is paid to Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. All those who appear on the Parr show get a standard fee. It will be Hinnen's second visit to New York. In 1959 he appeared for six weeks in a Swiss folklore programme in Radio City with the Schmid Trio, three singing members of the musical family which owns the Kindli Restaurant.

The popularity of the Matterhorn

On 15th August this year no fewer than 180 mountaineers safely scaled the 14,780 foot Matterhorn. This news might make readers think that the famous peak, dominating the glacier village of Zermatt, is just the place for a leisurely Sunday family outing. We tend to forget how young the sport of mountaineering really is. When Edward Whymper left Zermatt on the morning of 13th July 1865 with three English friends and three guides to make the first ascent, the Matterhorn was considered



(Photo: Swiss National Tourist Office)

A typical Swiss mountain dweller.

impregnable, even by experts. No one believed that this foolhardy venture would succeed. In fact, the British climber and his companions conquered the Matterhorn in less than two days without undue difficulty, but during the descent Whymper's three friends and one guide fell to their deaths. For a time mountaineering was denounced as a crazy, irresponsible pursuit appealing only to the anti-social. But in the long run it was Whymper's own sporting compatriots who appear to have been most impressed by his success, and since then the view that mountaineering is not an end in itself but a means to an end has prevailed.