

# It happened in the Cantons of Zug, Glarus and Schaffhausen

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cultivation. As more than half was used for cereals and feeding stuffs, meat consumption was further reduced. Only diplomats, doctors and the Army drove in cars. The shortage of rubber was almost worse, and on Sundays even bicycles had to be left at home.

But in spite of shortages, the sacrifices necessitated by the Army being kept at the frontiers and the uncertainty regarding Switzerland's position in the coming invasion, the country was united and determined to cope and it was proving its worth.

Looking back on this Day of Thanksgiving, we see much for which we have ample reason to thank the Almighty. However well the Swiss Army was prepared, and however ready the Swiss soldier was to defend his country, ultimately it was God's Grace which kept Switzerland out of the wars.

The Day of Prayer is called "Eidgenössischer Dank-, Buss- und Betttag". Thanksgiving and Prayer seem natural enough. But what of Atonement and Penitence? That is where it becomes more difficult individually and corporately. Yet, if this Sunday is to be more than just a day of outward conformity to traditional do's and don'ts, we must do more than just reflect. Much that is bad was done, and much was neglected which should have been seen to. We forget that to have been spared the horror of war gave us responsibilities, as individuals and as a nation. We take so much for granted and are not always willing really to come to grips with the problems which unprecedented affluence and a rapidly changing Europe have brought. The spirit of 1939 is lacking.

Professor Dr. H. von Greyerz, Bernese historian, said that there was a great difference between 1914 and 1939. The first war brought a basic violent commotion and a dissolution of a world of conventions. The second war, however, was for Switzerland far more of an endurance test. The "Landi", the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich in 1939, symbolised the will and determination of the Swiss to survive united and free. It would have been unthinkable

then that the organisation of a National Exhibition should even be questioned or principles argued as was the case with the EXPO 1964. It would have been impossible in 1939 for the citizens of a Canton to refuse the credit for their Cantonal Day as the Aargau did this time, or that a group of people like the extremists of the separatist movement in the Bernese Jura should have threatened to blast the railway lines leading to Lausanne. Peter Dürrenmatt, Editor-in-Chief of the "Basler Nachrichten", mentioned this in an article in March. He said that for the young of today the active service of 1939 and 1945 is as much in the distant past as the economic crisis of the 'thirties. The same writer, in a leader on 1st August, deplores the *blasé* attitude which rejects the "Landi" spirit today. To be spiritually superior, he says, it seems to be necessary to make fun of the idealising strength of the political Swiss "Existenzgefühl" and to look upon it as one of the many forms of national lie and false pathos. "Today, if you want to be heard as an *avant-gardist* you have to 'de-mythologize' strongly or, as one of the sickeningly over-used fashionable terms has it 'to destroy the taboos'. Against this, you may then let the weekend horoscope of your favourite magazine help you to get on your feet again".

In spite of sceptical voices and deplorable discussions, the Swiss National Exhibition 1964 has been realised and is hailed more and more as a great success. It asks us to undergo a "Prise de Conscience". The Federal Day of Prayer this year, a few weeks before the ending of the EXPO, is an appropriate moment to halt and to reflect more than at other times and in other years. May we Swiss at home and abroad, be granted the readiness earnestly to search our consciences and to act upon the findings, individually and as a nation. Thanksgiving, Atonement and Prayer — then perhaps in another quarter of a century, we may look back on the "EXPO spirit 1964" as the beginning of a new era in Swiss national life.

Mariann.

## IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF ZUG, GLARUS and SCHAFFHAUSEN

### ZUG

The census of 1960 showed that in the smallest Canton in Switzerland, too, the population had increased in the ten preceding years from 17,461 to 52,489. Nine of the eleven communes in the Canton showed an increase, and Menzingen and Neuheim showed a decrease. In 1960, 83.1% of the population belonged to the Roman Catholic faith as against 84 ten years previously. One hundred years ago, the Canton had been almost entirely Catholic. Out of every thousand inhabitants, 891 were Swiss and 109 foreigners, over half of them Italians.

The total accounts for 1963 for the Canton of Zug show a deficit of 1.7 million francs. Like in other Cantons, the construction of roads falls heavily into account — and the present year will be no easier; in February, the government asked the cantonal Parliament for a credit of 9½ million francs. The accounts of the town of Zug also show an excess of expenditure of half a million francs, with an income 11.113 million francs.

In March a report on building was published, according to which the construction of houses and factories and above all of public buildings had gone up considerably. In 1961 it was for a total of 69 million francs, in 1962 for

84 and last year for 100.5 million francs. For the first time in 1963, not all the demands could be met. Among the buildings planned is a double kindergarten and school in the "Letzi" in Zug, a considerable extension of the Cantonal School, an eight-storey building on the Bahnhofplatz (the Bahnhofstrasse is to be widened, too). The kindergarten scheme was accepted by the electorate in spring, but the present plan for the Bahnhof/Poststrasse was rejected. In July, the electorate accepted the renovation scheme for the Burgbach gymnasium and the Fridbach scheme for 200 flats. Unteraegeri is to have a new old people's home.

Zug is to join the intercantonal concordant for a technical college in Lucerne. In June, the Cantonal Council decided on a revision of the regulations governing assistance to old age pensioners, invalids and dependents.

On 4th July, the population helped to clean up the Lake of Zug which, like many others in Switzerland, shows dangerous signs of pollution. Two hundred volunteers with some forty boats took part in the successful "spring cleaning". The problem of clean water is acute, and a central clearing plant is planned at Cham-Hagendorn, at the cost of about sixty million francs.

From 1959 to 1963, a young baker set fire to a number of buildings mostly barns, and early this year he was arrested to the relief of the farming population.

On 1st May news came of a serious fire at the ancient newly-renovated "Loewen" inn at Sihlbrugg, on Zug territory, but on the border of Zurich. Several people died in the fire or were injured, and the damage surpassed one million francs, which does not include the real value of the historically important building.

At the end of June, Unteraegeri celebrated 250 years as a church commune and 150 years as a political unit. Last November, it was one hundred years since the Protestant Church of the Canton of Zug was founded.

### GLARUS

The sixth volume dealing with the results of the census of 1960 showed that in the course of 110 years the population of Glarus has increased by almost a third, from 30,213 in 1850 to 40,148 in 1960. At Linthal, the increase during the previous ten years was 51.9%. Twelve communes showed a decrease; the maximum was reached by Schwaendi with 15.8%. On 1st December 1960, out of every thousand inhabitants, 851 were Swiss and 149 foreigners, of whom nearly four-fifths Italians.

Thanks to higher revenue from taxes, the cantonal accounts for 1963 showed a small surplus of Frs.138,409.— with an income of Frs.23,615,312.—.

The Municipal President of Glarus, Regierungsrat Dietrich Stauffacher (Democrat), retired and was succeeded by Dr. iur. Alfred Heer (Liberal). The Glarner Landrat chose its Vice-President Martin Baumgartner as the new President.

One of the items on the parliamentary agenda was the marriage of two fifteen year-old Spaniards. But as marriage in Spain is legal for a girl of twelve, nothing could be done; international law decrees that the law of the country of origin applies in such a case.

In July, the final opening of the new road along the Walensee took place, after a construction period of nearly eight years. A month earlier, the Gas Works Glarus celebrated both the centenary and the inauguration of a modern gas production plant (Leichtbenzin-Spaltanlage).

The traditional Naefelser Fahrt took place early in April, the commemoration of the battle of Naefels in 1388. In his patriotic address, Landammann Feusi recalled the historic facts of the fourteenth century and the two world wars in this century. He condemned the fact that the Red Army Choir had been able to perform in some of the Swiss towns, but also the terrorist activities in the Jura. He pointed to the EXPO as a communal achievement of the country and ended thus: "What our forefathers fought for and our fathers defended, we, too, must be ready to work for with all our strength if it has to be conserved for our descendants".

The Roman Catholic church commune of Glarus-Riedern now has its own church building, the St. Fridolinskirche. In 1532, the Protestant and R.C. communities of Glarus started using the same church, the Stadtkirche, and this has been going on ever since.

### SCHAFFHAUSEN

Revenue from taxes are responsible for the cantonal accounts ending with a surplus of one and a quarter million francs (income Frs.41,266,000.—). The town of Schaffhausen, too, shows a small surplus of Frs.25,900.— (income Frs.25,518,400.—).

The cantonal tax administration is to rationalise its work with the help of an electronic computer. A new con-

fiscation and expropriation law is being considered, the present one dating back to 1874. The Schaffhausen and Neuhausen citizens voted for cost of living grants to municipal staff. A new building law has also been worked out. One of the changes is that buildings up to eight storeys need no special permit. The Cantonal Parliament accepted a motion to grant women the vote in cantonal matters (50 : 17).

In May, the electorate of Schaffhausen-Town accepted several credit proposals covering an extension of the railway goods station, the construction of a waste water canal in the newly industrialised Herblinger Valley, an exchange of land between the Georg Fischer works and the municipality and an extension of the Municipal Library. The cost of opening up the Herblinger Valley to industry is about thirty million francs. Herblingen has now become part of Schaffhausen as "Quartier 7". Neuhausen/Rheinfall has decided to remain a "commune" and not to become a "town". The Grosse Stadtrat has accepted the scheme to have part of the national highway built along the fringe of the Western Old Town. Trams are to be discontinued and replaced by trolley buses.

There is a new youth hostel in Schaffhausen — the Chairman of the Swiss Youth Hostel Association called it "a pearl" amongst the 126 hostels in Switzerland. In June, the new sports and recreation ground Emmersberg was officially opened. In the art section of the Allerheiligen Museum, a new room has been opened, dedicated to the work of the artist Max Gubler.

At the end of March, it was twenty years since the fatal bombing of Schaffhausen by American aircraft — a tragic error which caused the death of forty people, injury to three hundred, damage or destruction of seventy buildings.

Neunkirch decided against the construction of three huge oiltanks by 166 : 36 votes. Instead, the commune prefers to organise a regional planning group for the Klettgau. Seven communes have formed the "Abwasser-verband Klettgau" for the purpose of constructing a water purification plant.

The Galliweies am Randen has been declared a nature reserve. The new Rhine bridge connecting Schaffhausen with Feuerthalen was opened on 12th August. This replaces the old wooden bridge which is a hundred years old. May was a record month for passengers on the Untersee and the Rhine near Schaffhausen — 60,000 as against 32,000 in the same month last year and 47,000 in 1959, the previous record. Due to an increase of water traffic, Schaffhausen has felt the need for a special water police (fast boat, skilled navigators, life saving experts and divers). After a rock slide into the Rhine near the castle of Laufen last Christmas, the rocky parts which have become dangerous have now been secured by cables.

There was a huge fire at the carpenter's and joiner's Winzeler at Thayngen, causing extensive damage. The former prison governor Dutler was tried on 67 accusations of swindling the authorities out of considerable sums of money during his term of office. He was found guilty on 51 points and got fifteen months imprisonment.

The eighth Bach Festival was held in Schaffhausen in conjunction with the International Bach Society (3rd to 10th May). Some of the concerts were held in the newly renovated Cathedral which is nine hundred years old. During the Bach Festival there was an exhibition of manuscripts and documents covering the nine centuries, and the archaeological finds and excavations in the cathedral grounds were open to the public.

(Based on A.T.S. news.)