

A big Swiss film enables its workers to become shareholders

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Hans Roth (61), Berne, "Schwingerkönig" 1929 and 1931.

Kurt Hirschfeld (63), Zurich, artistic director and founder member of the Zürcher Schauspielhaus.

Prof. Ernst Steiner (84), Lausanne, lawyer, legal correspondent, prominent legal expert in the Canton of Aargau, for years the only Protestant lecturer at the R.C. University of Fribourg.

Pfr. Paul Tenger (78), Berne, former minister at the Cathedral (1929-1955).

Henry Gros (70), Geneva, banker (Swiss Bank Corporation) and member of many boards of directors.

Karl Braun (78), Burgdorf, expert on railway construction and director of the Emmental — and other railway lines.

Fritz Schoder (80), historian, editor of the "Zofinger Neujahrsblätter", municipal librarian and honorary citizen of the town.

Attilio Bonetti (86), St. Moritz, carpenter, and the last bear hunter of Switzerland — in 1902 he shot what is believed to be the last bear in the country (Veltlin), weighing 160 kilos.

Burkhard Marti (57), Altstaetten, customs director, killed in a motor accident.

Dr. Norbert Beno (65), Monthey, director of the psychiatric home of Malevoz.

Josef Rings-Hofmann (75), Lucerne, former manager of the Parkhotel, member of the music festival committee and several Lucerne tourist organisations; his death occurred in Salzburg.

Dr. Ernst Kistler (63), Brugg (Aargau), lawyer, politician, Colonel of Infantry.

Gian Reto Giovanoli (27), St. Moritz, well-known ski racing champion, killed in an accident at work on the aerial cableway Corvatsch.

Kamala Wolff (67), Basle, eminent pianist.

Ernst Ginsberg (60), Zurich, well-known actor.

Otto Heitmanek (61), Zurich, one of the few pilots of Swissair, who experienced the whole development of the company from its beginnings; he had 28 years of service with Swissair, 19,000 hours of flying and 5.3 million flight kilometres to his credit.

Jean Zwahlen (56), Lausanne, industrialist, politician, Colonel of General Staff, member of the EXPO management committee, of the Rotary Club and Chairman of the "Association Vaudoise pour la Navigation du Rhône au Rhin".

Gustav Seiler (86), Berne, Well-known journalist.

Henri Gonthier (71), Lausanne, businessman and on the board of the "Tribune de Lausanne", "Imprimeries Réunies" and "Feuilles d'Avis de Lausanne".

Dr. Eugen Blocher (82), Pully, former President of the Federal Tribunal.

Friedrich Lodewig (61), Basle, well-known architect and planner; killed in a road accident.

National Councillor Dr. Alfred Gruetter (57), Berne, former M.P.; parliamentary correspondent.

[A.T.S.]

A BIG SWISS FIRM ENABLES ITS WORKERS TO BECOME SHAREHOLDERS

J. R. Geigy Ltd, in Basle, the well-known Swiss manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, chemicals and dyestuffs, have recently made changes in the structure of their shares, of great interest from the social point of view. First of all, by drawing on their reserves, they have raised the value of their shares from Fr.750.— to 800.—. In order to make these shares more easily negotiable, they have been divided into four equal parts. In addition, the firm has carried out a second increase in its capital from 48 to 51 million francs by issuing 15,000 new shares at Fr.400.—, i.e. double the nominal value. The right to subscribe is exclusively reserved for the personnel, by means of a special fund, created for the purpose and designed to allow the staff to share in the additional benefits of the pension fund. All the firm's employees will therefore be entitled to become shareholders, provided they live and work in Switzerland and have been members of Geigy Ltd.'s pension fund for at least four years. The shares can be purchased in four instalments of Fr.100.—, the first after four years, the other three every two years. Consequently, at the end of ten years' service, an employee will be able to possess a share worth between Fr.5,000.— and 6,000.—. These shares will not be transferable during the employee's period of service, but on retirement he will become sole owner of them, with all the rights involved.

[O.S.E.C.]

A CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY POOL FORMED IN SWITZERLAND

A construction machinery pool was recently created in Switzerland in the form of a co-operative society. The purpose of this group is to centralize supply and demand for the rental of large construction machinery, in this way ensuring a more rational use of existing machines and an optimum employment of all construction machinery, at the same time avoiding any risk of over-equipment. The pool was created by a number of big Swiss civil engineering firms, in co-operation with a trust company, and is open to any Swiss public works firm.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISSAIR BREAKS A NEW RECORD

At the beginning of November, a DC-8 belonging to Swissair covered the distance from Zurich to New York in 7 hours and 14 minutes. Taking into consideration the time difference between Switzerland and the east coast of the United States, the plane, which was flying at an altitude of over 35,000 feet, averaged a cruising speed of 575 m.p.h. The previous record, made in 1961, was 7 hours and 35 minutes.

[O.S.E.C.]

SWISSAIR DIRECT SERVICE TO LAS PALMAS

Swissair is now operating a direct service by Convair 990A Coronado Jet from Zurich to Las Palmas every fortnight. The flight by the 100-seat Coronado takes four hours.