

Two mountaineering books

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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Prof. Robert Saitschick (96), Zurich, philosopher and writer, born in Lithuania, at one time lecturer at the universities of Berne, Neuchâtel and Zurich. After a few years of lecturing at Cologne University, he returned to Ascona. He was a citizen of Zurich and an honorary citizen of Ascona.

Miss Kathy Zwicky (76), from Mollis (Glarus), all her life in Syracuse (New York), a great benefactress to the old people of Mollis.

Alfred Delavy (78), Sierre, editor of the "Journal de Sierre et du Valais Central", former President of the Valais Press Association.

Roger de Crousaz (93), Lausanne, the oldest Vaudois engineer, founder of the Swiss road construction company STUAG in Berne, philanthropist, Colonel of artillery, and inspector of refugee and prisoner-of-war camps during the war.

Josef Burkart (73), Rotkreuz (Zug), former member of the Zug government and "Landammann", postmaster and manager of the Cantonal Bank branch at Rotkreuz, cantonal M.P. and President of the Cantonal Court of Justice for five years.

Bernhard von Euw (91), Lucerne, well-known architect.

Dr. h.c. Ulrich Gutersohn (83), St. Gall, teacher of religion and Hebrew at the Cantonal School, for twenty-three years Secretary of the Evangelical Church Council of the Canton of St. Gall. He received the Honorary Doctorate of Theology in 1944.

Kurt Rothenbuehler (60), Berne, musician, conductor and musical director, amongst others of the "Caecilienverein" and the "Liedertafel" Berne.

Frau Pauline Kellenberger-Feurer (100), Oberhofen on the Lake of Thun.

Otto Raggenbass (59), Kreuzlingen (Thurgau), teacher, "Bezirksstatthalter" since 1938, well-known personality in the Lake Constance region, concerned with the well-being of refugees who entered Switzerland in that part of the country during the war. Author of "Trotz Stacheldraht", a documentary book on that period.

Hans Weber (30), Basle, one of the best football players in Switzerland. With him, Swiss sport has lost the fourth top sportsman within four months: Hugo Kobelt (cycling), Goepf Kottmann (rowing), Gian-Reto Giovanoli (ski-racing) and now Weber.

[A.T.S.]

SWITZERLAND AND HER FOREIGN MARKETS

A NEW PUBLICATION

At the beginning of this year, in a double number of its weekly "Informations économiques", the Lausanne branch of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade published a series of articles on the general situation in 1964, as well as on foreign trade, and trade between Switzerland and some eighty-one foreign markets, several of which offer new outlets. This series of articles, based on the most recent figures available, is extremely topical. It is completed by a number of tables of statistics showing the evolution of foreign trade in big areas, world production, price trends and international liquidity. While there is no direct threat today to Swiss exports, as Mr. Albert Masnata, head of SODT (OSEC) says in substance in his

introduction, certain difficulties might nevertheless arise owing to the structural changes taking place in various parts of the world, involving a definite increase in national and international competition on foreign markets, as well as owing to the customs discrimination which Swiss products are coming up against in EEC countries and their partners, especially in Africa. This interesting 46-page publication (in German and French) can be obtained from the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, Lausanne 1001.

[O.S.E.C.]

TWO MOUNTAINEERING BOOKS

The "ZERMATT SAGA" by Cicely Williams was already mentioned in the "Swiss Observer" in November. It is of special interest during "The Year of the Alps". The author explains her exceptional fondness for the famous alpine resort in these words: "After my very first visit, I was sure that there could never be anywhere quite like Zermatt; no other mountain so compelling as the Matterhorn; no other guides in whom one could have the same confidence as the Zermatt guides. A long time has passed since that first visit, but I have found no reason to change my opinion on any of these matters".

* * *

Every summer day thousands of visitors to Switzerland gaze at the magnificent shape of the Matterhorn. Hundreds of them know a little of how the mountain was first climbed by a British party just a century ago. Few of them, however, know the exciting story behind the meeting in Zermatt of the four British climbers who were to scale the peak — the extraordinary set of coincidences which brought the four of them to the little village on the same day, each determined to be the first on the top of the Matterhorn.

The whole fascinating tale has now been told in "THE DAY THE ROPE BROKE" by Ronald W. Clark, a well known writer and mountain historian. In building up a detailed and human picture of what happened, he has not only used his extensive knowledge of the period, but has found fresh information in such places as the great Coolidge archives in Zurich; in the unpublished material of John Tyndall, the famous Victorian scientist; and in the records of the British Foreign Office, whose officials in Berne were drawn into the aftermath of the accident.

[S.N.T.O.]

A NEW DOCUMENTARY

The film "Begegnungen" ("Encounters") is a remarkable achievement by the Swiss film-maker Hans Trommer (produced by Dr. Heinrich Fueter for Condor-Film, Zurich). It is dedicated to the Swiss National Museum. Wrote one critic: "Full of poetry — not a static museum film, but a film infused by the spirit of the muses."

[S.N.T.O.]

SCELLEN-URSELI FILMED

"Schellen Urseli", the story of a little boy from an Engadine village who wanted a large cowbell in order to ring in the Springtime, was made by author Selina Chönz and artist Alois Carigiet into a much-loved picture-book for children. Now, commissioned by the Grisons Tourist Office, it has been filmed by Condor-Film A.G., Zurich. Notable in the 19-minute, 35mm. colour film is the splendid animal photography by Domenic Feuerstein.

[S.N.T.O.]