

American astronaut in Switzerland

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AMERICAN ASTRONAUT IN SWITZERLAND

Whilst the "Schweizerisches Tonkünstlerfest" took place in St. Gall, and some 850 Tambouren met at Emmen for their fourteenth Federal Festival and Contest at the first week-end in June, the American astronaut John Glenn was hailed in several parts of Switzerland. On the first day, he gave a fascinating talk at the Swiss Museum of Transport and Communications in Lucerne. The next day, he addressed the American Club in Geneva, and on 7th June, he gave a talk at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Following the lecture, the President of the "Schweiz. Vereinigung für Weltraumtechnik", Dr. F. Hummler, gave a Reception at a Guild House, and amongst those present was the new Municipal President, Dr. Widmer.

The American had a tremendous success everywhere, and after the official part of his visit, he and his wife and daughter spent a few days holiday in Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]

TWO AVIATION JUBILEES IN BASLE

On 21st June 1919, Oskar Bider, the Swiss aviation pioneer, started from the St. Jakobsmatte in Basle for his flight around Switzerland. This prompted the formation of a society to further aviation. In 1922, "Aviatik beider Basel" was created, and this, in turn, leased the site on the Sternefeld at Birsfelden where the first hangar was constructed. The British firm of Handley-Page began to use the airfield, and soon other foreign companies followed. In 1925, the "Balair Luftverkehr A.G." was founded, and in 1926, "Balair" took over the line Basle-Stuttgart. This jubilee was duly celebrated on 12th April, and present were Dr. René Clavel, probably the oldest aviator and, with Mr. Paul Joerin, member of the first Board; Mr. Charles Koepke, Manager of the original "Aviatik" and other veterans of forty and more years ago attended the jubilee. Today, "Balair" still run charter flights, but also operate lines for "Swissair". In 1965, the company made a profit of 2.4m. francs.

The second jubilee was in the middle of May when it was twenty years since the airport at Muelhausen was opened. A number of Swiss and French guests were present. Minister of State Monsieur Louis Joxe and Federal Councillor Tschudi represented the two Governments and jointly laid the foundation stone for the new passenger building. Following the ceremony, military planes, Swiss "Hunters" and French "Fugas", took part in a fly-past. Some 40,000 spectators had come to watch.

A week earlier, "Radio Basel" gave a birthday party to the whole population of the neighbourhood. About a thousand people attended the successful party transmitted over Swiss and French radio. All the foreign air companies stationed in Basle contributed something, a British company for instance, flew English beer to Basle and BEA produced assorted cheeses. "Balair" Manager Herzog fetched the newly-elected Zurich Municipal President by air, so as to provide the Basle people with a chance of meeting the new "Stapi" in person.

With the introduction of the new jet DC-9, Basle will have even more importance. Early in the year, "Swissair" coined a slogan "Travel by Aeroplane — use it from Basle".

(*"Basler Nachrichten"* and A.T.S.)

GOLF IN SWITZERLAND

There are twenty-eight golf courses in Switzerland, fifteen of them 18-holes. Not a lot for a whole country, you may think, but they are located so strategically that, wherever you may happen to be in Switzerland, you will find one within surprisingly easy reach. The map of Switzerland makes this clear at a glance: Distances are short — at least in the horizontal. As regards the vertical — well, there is golfing at a wide range of altitudes: the lowest course is that at Ascona which lies a mere 700 feet above sea-level; the highest is at St. Moritz, 6,100 feet. The higher you go, the more wonderful are the air and the scenery, so the harder it is to keep your mind on the game. . . . All the local clubs cater for visitors who, incidentally, have the advantage of being able to play at week-days while the local people are busy earning their daily bread. Green fees run from 8 to 12 francs a day, and weekly and monthly cards are issued at very reasonable rates.

If you don't want to take your "sticks" with you, a set can be hired locally. Efficient professional coaches are available, too, if you want to improve your stroke play.

[S.N.T.O.]

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