

# It happen in Eastern Switzerland

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## IT HAPPENED IN EASTERN SWITZERLAND

### APPENZELL AUSSERRHODEN

The Cantonal Parliament of Ausserrhoden enforced the new health law which had been accepted by the "Landsgemeinde" in 1965. With it, quacks can now be prosecuted more easily in case of need. The budget for 1966 has also been accepted; it estimates revenue of 23½ million and a deficit of half a million francs. Landammann Hermann Kuendig has announced his retirement from the Government in spring.

A third of the 4,438 foreign workers in AR (31st August 1965) are employed in the textile industry. These figures do not include the Hungarian refugees. 2,850 of the alien working population are Italians, 458 Spaniards, 379 Germans, 300 Austrians.

The small Commune of **Buehler** approved the Council's plan for a new upper school with gymnasium and Commune Hall at a cost of well over two million francs. In October, the first Swiss "Klimastation für Medizinische Rehabilitation" was opened at **Gais**, a communal effort by 86 recognised health insurance groups. It is a modern centre for ninety inmates and cost 2.6 million francs to build.

A special commission has worked out a long-term finance plan for the Commune of **Herisau**, Capital of Appenzell-Ausserrhoden. 36 million francs will be required for the next few years, 13½ of which is for water protection, 7.4 for school buildings, 2.7 for road construction, 2.2 for civil defence shelters, 2 for land reserve, 2 for a new home for old-age pensioners and 6.2 million francs for various other public obligations. The "Arbeits-erziehungsanstalt Kreckelhof" celebrated its Golden Jubilee in December, and the Military Barracks at Herisau can look back on a century. A "Dampfloki-Club" was founded for steam engine fans. Its members have acquired the last steam engine of the Maffoi EB 3/5 type.

The first chairlift in Appenzell was opened from **Schoengrund** to the Hochhamm in November. A modern annexe has been opened in an old-style Appenzell house at **Schwellbrunn**; it serves as school and meeting place. 81% of the **Speicher** electorate took part in a vote in December, and the 3.6 million francs project for a new primary school was rejected by 456 to 211 votes. The small Commune of **Stein** accepted a similar project, but at a much smaller cost. Eight South-Korean children and four helpers have arrived at the Pestalozzi Children's Village at **Trogen**. More are to follow.

**Wald-Schoenengrund** now has a waste water plant which at least partially reduces water pollution; a further plant is yet to be constructed to complete the whole scheme. **Walzenhausen** has a transportable waste water plant which will be used until a permanent plant becomes operational. The temporary installation can then be used elsewhere at reasonably small cost.

### APPENZELL INNERRHODEN

The Cantonal Parliament accepted the budget for 1966, which estimates revenue at Fr.7,291,950.— and a deficit of Fr.318,633.—. The proposal to do away with a "Waisenvater" in honorary capacity was rejected; the present arrangements at the orphanage were considered satisfactory.

The 52nd Ordinary General Meeting of the St. Gall-Appenzell Power Works took place in Appenzell. It accepted the report and agreed to a 6% dividend out of the surplus of Fr.645,000.—.

### ST. GALL

On 25th January, the St. Gall Government published the draft of a new law on Initiative and Referendum. In the accompanying message and at a subsequent Press Conference, it was stated that the constitutional rights should be clarified and that it should be made easier for the citizen to use them. The draft covers a new finance Referendum, the possibility of consultative plebiscites and a strengthening of the right to use the Initiative. In 1831, St. Gall was the first Canton in the Confederation to introduce the people's veto against proposed legislation. That was the signal for direct democracy in the Cantons without "Landsgemeinde". With the new proposals the Government deliberately follows that tradition.

The cantonal budget estimates expenditure of 278 million francs for 1966, 12% more than last year. But the financial position is considered very good and the rate of taxes was reduced. Structural improvements in the Canton's economy have made excellent progress.

The measures taken by the Confederation to reduce the excessive boom resulted in a marked decrease of building activities. The ceiling given to the Canton for 1964 had been 550 million francs; this sum was exceeded by 44 mio. For 1965, the accorded limit was 602, but by mid-November, only slightly more than half that figure had been used up. Parliament agreed to a grant of 7.85 mio towards the new building of the Wil hospital and 4.7 mio for a centre (rheumatism and rehabilitation) at Valens, to replace the old Bad Pfäfers in the Tamina Gorge.

The new Eastern Switzerland children's hospital in St. Gall is to have a therapeutic department (Child Guidance Principle).

The shortage of teachers is still acute. Sixty-five primary teaching posts were filled by foreigners, students or retired teachers last year. Salaries have recently been increased by 7%, those of university professors by 14%. Plans for an intercantonal technical college at Rapperswil are progressing. The Universities of Geneva and St. Gall are co-operating in the field of European law. Prof. Francesco Kneschaurek, a citizen of the Ticino, lecturer since 1960, will be the new Principal of the St. Gall Institute of Economics, in succession to Prof. Dr. Otto Kaufmann who has been elected Federal Judge. The new Director of the Cantonal Teachers' Training College at Rorschach is Dr. Schoenenberger in succession to the retiring Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Clivio. Miss Margrith Bloechlinger (St. Gall) replaces Miss Helen Fuchs as President of the "Verband St. Gallischer Arbeitslehrerinnen" (445 members).

The "Verkehrsschule" St. Gall will lose its Principal through retirement. Prof. Walter Baumgartner will be replaced by Prof. Konrad Schneider from Herisau. This institute which trains employees for the postal services, railways, customs, telephone and telegraph services and Swissair, has a new model railway installation.

The Canton of St. Gall now has a full-time Curator of Monuments — Mr. Walter Fietz, well-known for his

restorations, especially of Werdenberg, the smallest townlet in the world, a beautiful, medieval place with a castle near Buchs in the Rhine Valley.

The research material on farm houses, left by the late Prof. Dr. Otmar Widmer, is to be kept in the Cantonal Record Office and will be kept up-to-date by further documentation.

In 1951 it was 1,300 years since the death of the Irish monk Gallus. The event was duly commemorated, and since then every year, the town of **St. Gall** celebrates "Gallstag" on 16th October, last time with a concert as well as a historic/cultural lecture.

The St. Gall Municipality expects a deficit of over 2 million francs (70 mio expenditure) for 1966. This year, the Commune Council is presided over by the Socialist Hermann Zeller.

Only 30% of the town's electorate went to the poll in December and accepted two proposals, to construct a pumping station in the Lerchental and a refuse dumping ground in the Tüfentobel. With a credit of 5.5 million francs, the town hopes to produce better drinking water. The waste water plant Haetterenwald has been in operation since last summer.

Public transport will be extended and more trolley buses will replace buses. Fifty new vehicles will be purchased. More and more will have conductor-less trailers. Special parking bays for doctors have been reserved in the newly extended "blue zone" parking area. St. Gall has the most modern building for prisoners on trial in the renovated Karlstor.

The "Verkehrsverein" of St. Gall and the Builders' Federation of the town could both celebrate their 75th anniversaries. Another special event was the Swiss Lawyers' 99th A.G.M. in September.

Dr. Charlie Wunderly (Meilen) has presented over 700 letters and manuscripts of the St. Gall poet Regina Ullmann to the Municipal Library (Vadiana). The Chief Librarian Dr. Hans Fehrlin has retired. He is succeeded by Dr. Peter Wegelin, historian and teacher in Berne, who also lectures at the St. Gall "Hochschule". The industrialist Max Stoffel donated Fr.200,000.— for the new Municipal Theatre.

At **Bazenheid**, a new regional society for public benefit was founded; the aim is welfare and housing for the old. **Buchs** has a new R.C. church, **Buetschwil** is to spend 1.13 million francs on a Commune Hall with annexe for fire brigade and civil defence, and **Flawil** citizens decided to join the "Gasverband Ostschweiz A.G.", but rejected plans to renovate the meeting and Court room in the Village Hall. A bazaar brought in funds to finance the extension of the "Heilpädagogische Schule" of Flawil, and the village poet Karl Bruggmann was honoured on his 83rd birthday.

The cotton-weaving firm of Berlinger & Co. at **Ganterschwil** celebrated its centenary, and **Gossau** and **Lutisburg** are to have new school buildings. Leutisburg's Commune Clerk has been elected as first full-time "Gemeindeammann".

**Mels** commemorated 1,200 years of existence last summer, and **Mosnang** remembered the "Black Death" of 400 years ago by a special pageant. The largest bridge in Switzerland especially constructed for alpine farming and forestry, was opened in October at an altitude of 1,100m. above **Oberriet**. **Rheineck's** Domestic Science College Custerhof celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first Music Prize was awarded to Fred Braegger who founded the Chamber Choir and Orchestra. Werner

Mueller is the new "Stadtammann" of **Rorschach** (Liberal) to replace National Councillor Ernst Grob. There has been a great deal of opposition to the projected thermal power station at **Ruethi**. The Cantonal Parliament agreed after a long debate. An appeal to the Federal Council by the opponents of the project has been rejected.

**St. Margrethen** has an international wood research centre now, and an "Offiziersgesellschaft" was founded at **Sargans**. The Commune elected the former Cantonal Councillor Jakob Oertli and his wife as Honorary Citizens. A **Thal** citizen, Herman Tobler, who lives in France, has generously donated the money for a home for old people in his Commune; it was opened in the autumn. **Uzwil's** old people have now 68 flats at cheap rents at their disposal. The Evangelical Church Commune of **Walensdorf** celebrated its centenary.

**Wattwil's** hospital is 75 years old. Half a million francs have been donated to the Textile College at Wattwil by the Machine Factory Rieter A.G. in Winterthur. The Commune now has a new double kindergarten, a sports ground and a new telephone exchange. The new President of the District Tribunal of **Wil** is Dr. iur. Willi Haselbach; he replaces the retiring Dr. iur. Heinrich Bischoff. The St. Johann-Nepomuk Chapel at **Wittenbach** (1757) has been restored.

## GRISONS

Nearly 2½ million francs are the estimated deficit for 1966 in the Grisons cantonal accounts, revenue expected to be 165½ mio. The extraordinary accounts estimate a loss of 3½ mio with expenditure of 124.8 mio. The Cantonal Bank finished last year with a surplus of near 4 million francs.

The three new "Regierungsraete" Dr. H. Ludwig, Dr. L. Schlumpf and H. Stettler have taken up their posts.

The electorate of the Grisons accepted three proposals, the revised financial articles of the Constitution, a law for protection and preservation of the countryside and increased cultural activities, and a partial revision of the road construction finance law. Road construction weighs heavily on the Canton's finances. Half of all Swiss alpine roads in the federal road construction programme, a quarter of the main roads and an eighth of main roads with right of way are on Grisons territory. The new Chur by-pass was opened in November. 1.2 million francs have just been released for the construction of the large Via Mala bridge.

The Grisons, too, protested against the oil pipe line to Schoetz (Lucerne). Milk pipe lines, on the other hand, are of great advantage. Twenty-four are already in operation on the 800 alpine pastures, and eighteen more are to be installed. The capital of the electricity works Buendner Oberland A.G., Ilanz, has been trebled. The central station of Albula Valley power production has become operational.

The former Regierungsratspraesident Renzo Lardelli has been elected President of the Grisons Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Migros Company has donated Fr.5,000.— towards the publication of the second volume of "Mythologische Landeskunde von Graubünden" (Dr. Arnold Buechli).

On 1st January, **Chur's** population counted 28,835, 446 more than twelve months previously. The new Commune President is Josef Naegeli. The estimated accounts for 1966 show a small surplus of expenditure which is expected to amount to well over 69 million francs.



Thirteen underpasses are planned in conjunction with the national road construction programme. Chur now has a Telex centre, and no fewer than three homes for old citizens have been opened recently. The Protestant Regula Church is to be renovated, and the R.C. community decided to build a Holy Cross Church for 550 people.

The oldest hotel in **Davos**, the Spinabad, was gutted by fire on 18th January. **Ilanz** celebrated its 1,200th anniversary. In the testament of the Fürstbischoff Tello, made on 15th December 765, Ilanz was mentioned for the first time together with some other Grisons villages.

**Klosters**, too, now has a new telephone exchange. The Cantonal Agricultural College Plantahof at **Landquart** has been considerably enlarged. The Commune Assembly of **Luzern** has decided to build a school at **Pany** at the cost of 2.5 million francs. **Pontresina's** new by-pass has been opened. The new Commune President of **Samedan** is G. Lazzarini (Democrat). The hotel Bernina at Samedan celebrated its centenary.

*Bainvgnieu in Engiadina il'an da las alps.* This is how **St. Moritz** welcomed its visitors in the Year of the Alps, especially the participants in the Tenth Swiss Course for Citizenship in summer, at which Federal Councillor (then President) Tschudi gave an address, and the 53rd Swiss Bankers' Assembly in September, when Federal Councillor Bonvin addressed the four hundred members. Hotel Kurhaus St. Moritz Bad celebrated its centenary, though the beneficial spring of St. Mauritius has been known for 3,000 years.

The estate "Chapelle" in the Commune of **S-chanf** was once again up for sale. The little chapel in its grounds has long been derelict. Until 1852, church and estate were in the hands of the Church Commune Suot Funtauna Merla. But all was sold. Now, thanks to the generosity of many, the church is to be restored, one building is to house mentally handicapped children, and the other is to be a children's home. **Schiers** now has a Youth Parliament, and in October, a new children's home was opened at **Scharans** (also for the mentally handicapped).

**Schuls** is constructing an artificial ice rink. The detention home Realta at **Thusis**, constructed by the Grisons together with other Eastern-Swiss Cantons, was opened in the autumn.

In the Engadine, the advent of March will once again be welcomed by the time-honoured custom of the Chalanda Marz, when the village children laden with cowbells, will parade the streets. They will ring their bells, crack their whips and collect chestnuts and other goodies for the communal help-yourself meal for children on the following Sunday. And they will sing:

"Chalanda Marz, Chaland Avrigl,  
Laschèlas vachas our d'nuigl,  
Cha l'erva crescha  
E la naiv svanescha."

#### THURGAU

The budget for 1966 for the Canton of Thurgau expects revenue of 94 million francs and a loss of 4.45 mio. The Cantonal Bank's profit was 3,829 francs, the Canton having made a surplus of over 7½ million francs. All salaries will be increased. The term of office for all functionaries is to be raised from three to four years.

Road construction in the Thurgau goes on as elsewhere in Switzerland. Road accidents, though, went down in 1965, fewer deaths and injured people, but higher material damage. An additional credit is needed (12 mio)

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for the extension of the Cantonal Hospital at Muensterlingen. The demand for flats and houses has gone down in the three largest Communes, Frauenfeld, Kreuzlingen and Arbon.

The extensive damage caused by floods last summer has now been assessed. Over 600 claims have come in from private individuals, totalling 1.2 million francs, not counting the damage suffered by the Canton, amounting to several million francs. The correction of Lake Constance is still subject to discussion, and various projects have been put forward. Controversy is also strong regarding the second middle school which the Cantonal Government has planned for Romanshorn. This caused great disappointment in all the Lake Communes, where Kreuzlingen is proposed as location.

At the end of 1965, there were 211 more foreigners in the Canton than a year previously (total 26,202). It is pointed out, however, that the number of workers has decreased by 6.3%, and that the increase in the total is due to the growing number of foreign children, 1,394 more than twelve months before.

"The Thurgau is a Canton in which no one Commune dominates", said last year's President of the Council of States, Regierungsrat Dr. iur. Jakob Müller. No town has more than 20,000 inhabitants, yet there are several centres: the young farmers train at Arenenberg, the teachers at Kreuzlingen, the *Gymnasiasten* at Frauenfeld. Regarding industrialisation, the Thurgau is in seventh place in Switzerland, yet none of the districts has lost its rural character.

The Commune of **Arbon** has introduced the five-day week for its administration. The Assembly of **Egnach** has granted Fr.212,000.— towards financing technical improvements in the Bodensee-Toggenburgbahn. The Bishop of Basle and Lugano, Mgr. Franciscus von Streng, appointed Pfr. Josef Isenegger (Waengi) as new Dean of the R.C. Chapter of Priests in **Frauenfeld**. The electorate rejected a plan to renovate "Guggenhürli", the idyllic country house of the former Minister Konrad Kern.

At the end of January, the new R.C. St. Franziskus Church was inaugurated at **Huettwilten**. The **Kreuzlingen** electorate accepted large credits for sanitary installations, a new electric mains grid and the 1966 budget which expects a loss, but they resolutely rejected the proposed purchase of the building next to the Town Hall. Though the administration needs more room, the price of the building was considered excessive. A woman is the new "Bezirksamtsschreiberin" at Kreuzlingen. Early in January, the organ was inaugurated in the St. Ulrich Klosterkirche which had been destroyed by fire a couple of years ago.

**Mammern's** "Kuranstalt" was 100 years old in November. **Muenchwilten** has its own secondary school building and is to have a new R.C. church. In January, the renovated Catholic St. Verena Church at **Rickenbach** was opened again. It has new bells, too, and the old-ones, the oldest in the Thurgau, dating back to 1638, are now exhibited outside the church.

The Thurgau is often nicknamed "Most-Indien". This is apt, as in 1965, of the 6,800 trucks (10 metric tons each) of eating apples, 37% was the Thurgau's share. Of 2,700 trucks of cider apples, 47% came from the Thurgau. Early in December, the "Obstbautagung" took place at **Romanshorn**. There was great indignation at **Weinfelden** when the "Volkshaus" was closed in October. It was taken over as temporary offices by the Cantonal Bank.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse, "St. Moritz Courier" and "Femina".)

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