

Joseph Christen 80

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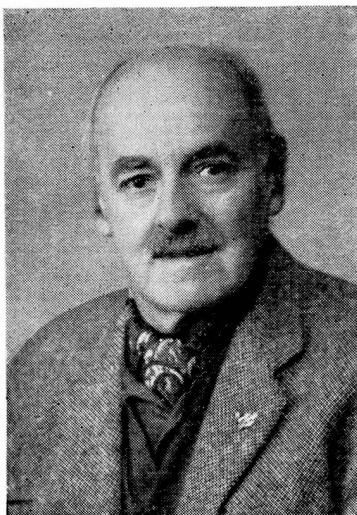
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**JOSEPH CHRISTEN 80**

It is with great pleasure that we inform our readers of the 80th birthday of Mr. Joseph (Joe) Christen, "Rigiblick", Oberwil/Zug, formerly of London.

He was born at Wolfenschiessen (Nidwalden) and received his schooling in Zug. At an early age, he indulged in ski-ing, and readers may remember his amusing account published some time ago in the S.O. He became a ski-ing instructor as early as 1907. He combined his sporting career with that of assistant chef at the Grand Hotel Schoenfels, Zugerberg. He was later appointed instructor by the Zurich sports firm of Fritsch & Co. He won many competitions.

In 1913, he came to London for a short period, as he wanted to return to Gstaad as ski-ing instructor. His plans were thwarted by the war, as he had to join his Regiment. In 1916 he was released from Army life and he returned to London. He exchanged ski-ing for managing the New Corn Exchange Restaurant in Mark Lane in the City, and then he became Steward at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club) Restaurant in Charlotte Street. After six years, in 1928, he was elected President of the Club and President of the Swiss Gymnastic Society, being keen on gym and other sports.

Whilst his wife managed a boarding house, he joined a commercial concern under the management of Mr. R. W. Dreyfus, and in a short time became foreman. In 1941, his house in Charlotte Street was totally destroyed in a bombing raid. His wife and seven other people were killed, whilst he was buried under the burning rubble. He was rescued eventually, badly injured. After many months of suffering, Mr. Christen was able to walk again, and his former employer, Mr. Dreyfus, gave him a home until he had fully recovered. Again thanks to his benefactor, he was offered a job as caretaker with Heddon Smith's, a position he still occupied when his 70th birthday was written up in the columns of this paper.

A few years ago, Mr. Christen retired to the Canton of Zug. He had a promising career spoilt twice and suffered great misfortunes. But he bore them with courage and fortitude, and we hope that he will enjoy many more years of good health and wellbeing. His nephew, Stadtrat Sidler, Zug, tells us that he still reads the "Swiss Observer" from cover to cover and wishes to be remembered to any of his old friends who may still be here.

Many happy returns, dear Joe!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. E. Meyer will celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary on 23rd December. Mr. C. Nater will be 60 on 2nd January, and Mr. E. P. Locher will be 75 on 4th day of the new year. On 7th January, Mr. A. Baenziger will be celebrating his 74th birthday. Mrs. L. Meyer has her birthday on 10th and Mrs. L. Moehr on 12th January. We wish these friends and any other readers (including all the younger ones) whose birthdays will fall within the next month, many happy returns.

HENRY SUTER 80

We have just heard that Mr. Henry Suter, of 53 St. James's Drive, S.W.17, celebrated his 80th birthday. We are glad to hear that he is enjoying good health. He has been retired for five years from the catering trade. We wish him many more years of well-being and contentment.

**WILLY RENZ 70**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 70th birthday of Mr. Willy Renz, of 7 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey. He was born in St. Gall where he had his schooling, followed by a period at a bank. He then studied economics in St. Gall where he graduated at the Institute of Economic and Social Sciences. Willy Renz arrived in this country in 1922. After studying at the London School of Economics, he worked at some banks and finally joined Hambros Bank Ltd., where he became Manager, as well as Director of Mocatta & Goldsmid, Bullion Brokers.

He has been a member of the Swiss Mercantile since 1923 and of the City Swiss Club since 1945. He joined the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in the early 'thirties and became its President in May 1957, an office he held with great distinction for four years.

In the Swiss Army, he was a First Lieutenant. He is happily married, and he and his wife are well-known in the Swiss community. They have a daughter and two grandchildren.

We wish Willy Renz that he may keep his good health and youthful appearance and enjoy his many cultural interests for many years to come.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 10th January. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by New Year's Eve. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 24th January. All contributions for that number should be to hand not later than Tuesday, 14th January.