

# News from the colony

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for the pursuit of a credible neutral policy.

- The more difficult military situation of smaller states in general as well as the total nature of war.
- The high vulnerability of the country.
- The discrediting of neutrality through neutralism.

"On the positive side:

- Deterrence at the strategic level has made a nuclear war less likely, making conventional weapons still relevant. As a result of this development, Switzerland's defence preparations should be sufficient to prevent a political and military vacuum in central Europe.
- Switzerland would probably not become the lone victim of aggression by a great power but would more likely be involved in a general conflict only. It is also conceivable that it may again avoid involvement in a future conflict.
- Even if a small state like Switzerland cannot really influence the international political constellation, it can set against it the continuity of its own foreign policy and through that create at least one factor of stability and security.
- Swiss neutrality has been and still is of advantage to other states."

Many apologies!

## OBITUARIES

### ALBERT HENRI LOUIS CUANY

Albert Henri Louis Cuany died on 12th December, 1975. He was born in Neuchâtel on 29th June, 1891, the son of Louis Daniel Cuany and Emma, née Benninger. He was a member of the hotel and catering profession having been an apprentice cook in Geneva, served in the P & O Steamship Line as chef – including service in 1914-16, and in 1917 joined the Caledonian Railway Hotels as Assistant-Superintendent at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. He served with distinction for 44 years in the group of hotels which later became part of the British Railways Hotels Executive and was Manager of the Central Hotel, Glasgow, the Midland Hotel, Manchester, and Euston Hotel, London. From 1957-61 as Assistant for Special Duties he organised an Hotel School for the Executive at New Lodge, Windsor. His retirement years were spent at Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks. A much-loved resident of the United Kingdom for most of his life, he is survived by his wife, Lilian Florence Cuany, and one daughter Jennifer May (Mrs. Michael Shapiro) both now of Sparkill, New York; by one son, Robin Louis Cuany, Ph.D., of Fort Collins,

Colorado; and by his only sister, Hélène Emma Cuany, of St. Léger, Ct. Vaud.

### HELENA JENNE

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Helena Jenne who died at an old people's home in Chur a few weeks ago. She was a member of the Simmen Family well known in the Grisons. She had no easy childhood as her mother died very young, and the children were brought up by an uncle. After spending some time in America, she settled in England. At one stage, she was Matron at the Swiss Home for Old People at 31 Conway Street, the present address of the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare Office for Young People. Social work has always interested her.

Then she married a banker, Mr. Gustave Jenne, a well-known member in the Swiss community in London, in the Swiss Mercantile Society where Mrs. Jenne, too, played a prominent part, the Swiss Church and the City Swiss Club. After his death, she retired to her native Grisons and spent a number of years at Andeer where, once again, she was very active. A couple of years ago, she gave up her home and moved to Chur.

We, her friends, shall remember her with affection, as we do her late husband.

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following readers will be celebrating their birthdays in February: Mrs. N. Burri on 6th, Mr. Ralph Maag on 17th and Mrs. E. Jamieson on the 20th of the month (1900). Mr. J. W. Bonjour will be 77 on 23rd and the former Swiss Ambassador Dr. Armin Daeniker (Berne) 78 on 24th February.

For a change, Mr. F. Gerber will be able to celebrate his birthday on the proper day – 29th February, when he will be 84.

Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Boehringer will have their 30th wedding anniversary on 2nd February.

To all these readers and others who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming month, we send congratulations and best wishes.

Sylvia Y. Streit, Secretary of the First of August Committee, and elder daughter of the late Alice and Fred Streit, would like her many friends in the Swiss colony to learn the happy news of her marriage to Michael H. W. Jones, on Saturday, 24th January, at Sheen Register Office. We add our best wishes.

## NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## ADOLPHE SCHMID IS 90!

On 1st February, Mr. Adolphe Schmid of the Norfolk Court Hotel, 20 Norfolk Square, Hyde Park, London W2, will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

Son of a hotel keeper, he was born at Eiken, Fricktal, Canton Aargau and

later attended the *Bezirksschule* Frick. He worked as *chef garde manger* at the Hôtel Beau Rivage at Ouchy, after having had a cook's apprenticeship – for which one paid in those days – at the Hôtel de France in Lausanne. He cooked for 200 people daily, amongst them the Grand Duke of Baden.

Adolphe Schmid came to London in 1907 after having done his military service in the *Rekrutenschule*. His first job was as chef at Felixstowe where he earned the princely wage of 25/- a week. It was hard to find work in London, but he found a job at the Lancaster Gate Hotel and later at Queen's near Crystal Palace. In his spare time, he sparred with the International Canadian Wrestling Team.

In 1910, he went to Ireland and worked at the Imperial in Cork, and later at the famous Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. Whilst in Cork, he became well acquainted with Lord Kitchener.

He returned to London in 1912 and held the position as head chef at the Carlton, with 40 chefs under him. When working at the Bucklands Hotel, he served Lord Roberts of Boer War fame.

When war broke out, Adolphe Schmid was amongst the 1,050 Swiss who went back to Switzerland where he joined the infantry battalion 58 as a fusilier. At the frontier where he served, he was the only one to have a camera, and so he had

to follow his officers to take pictures all of which are still in perfect condition.

Out of the 1,050 volunteers who had left for Switzerland, only a good dozen returned, amongst them young Schmid who took a job as head chef caterer at the Coburg Court Hotel. Later he bought the White City Restaurant and delicatessen shop. He had a staff of 20 and sold 1,000 chickens every week.

It was in 1929 that he decided to run his own hotel and bought No. 18 Norfolk Square, to which he later added No. 20. He turned an empty shell into a hotel and became a well-known personality in the district. During the Second World War, he held the post of chief fire watcher of Paddington. Norfolk Court was the only hotel open in the square, serving coffee in the street to those who had been bombed out.

During the 45 years he has been at the hotel, his talents as a chef were often required at outside functions, such as Buckingham Palace, the Mansion House and once at the House of Lords, together with Mr. Jurien and Mr. Lehner, at a banquet for the Victoria Cross recipients.

It was not until he was nearly 60, that Adolphe Schmid married. He and his wife Mona had two daughters and a son.

Adolphe Schmid used to be a prominent figure in the Swiss community. He is the only one alive of the founders of the Swiss Rifle Association (1920). In 1922 he was *Schützenkönig*, and his name is engraved on the Paravicini Cup. He has been a member of long standing of the Swiss Philatelic Society — he owns one of the

most beautiful stamp collections. He was one of the first members of the Union Helvetia, receiving a gold medal after 25 years' membership, and one of the founder members of the now extinct Swiss Jass Club. Adolphe Schmid is one of the oldest subscribers of the *Swiss Observer*, too, having taken out a subscription soon after the paper was started in 1920.

And now, he is a nonagenarian, but an extremely fit one — only last year he drove his car to Switzerland, *alone*. He is still very proud to be a Swiss in spite of his full and interesting life in this country. We wish him and his family an enjoyable birthday and many more happy years of good health and well-being.

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### AN IMPORTANT VISITOR TO THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN LONDON

Mr. Philippe Garraux, Berne, inland member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, paid a visit to the Swiss community in London. He gave an illustrated lecture on the young generation of creative artists in Switzerland to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at the Swiss Embassy on 20th November. A dinner in his and Mrs. Garraux's honour afterwards was attended by NSH Council members.

On Friday morning, 21st November, Mr. and Mrs. Garraux paid a visit to the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society, where they saw students at work at various stages of their studies of English, including the new language laboratory. The President of the Society, Mr. A. Jaccard, the Secretary, Mr. W. Burren and the Principal, Mr. E. W. Makin, M.A. received the guests, including Mrs. M. Meier, U.K. Delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and an old member of the SMS. Mr. Garraux expressed admiration and appreciation of

the excellent work done by the Society and the College where an average of 250 Swiss students attend.

The same evening, Mr. and Mrs. Garraux attended the Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club as guests of one of the members. They thus had an opportunity of meeting some more personalities of the Swiss community. Such visits certainly contribute towards better knowledge and understanding between the authorities at home and the Swiss communities abroad.

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### LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Wednesday, 28th January, 1976 — Monthly meeting followed by a display of Switzerland by Mr. F. Bulstrode.

Friday, 27th February, 1976 — Annual Dinner at the Presscala Club, Fleet Street.

Wednesday, 31st March, 1976 — Monthly meeting followed by C.P.G. slides.



## Forthcoming events

Saturday, 31st January, 1976 — The Swiss Mercantile Society's annual dinner and dance at the Dorchester. Non-members are welcome. For details telephone 01-637 3609.

Wednesday, 28th January — Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 pm — *Michel Tabachnik* conducts the London Sinfonietta in a programme of works by Gabrieli and Xenakis.

Friday, 30th January — Purcell Room, 7.30 pm — *Prelude, Arioso and Fugetta on the name of BACH* by *Arthur Honegger* is one of the works played by the pianist Niel Immelman.

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