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Message from the Swiss women's organisations

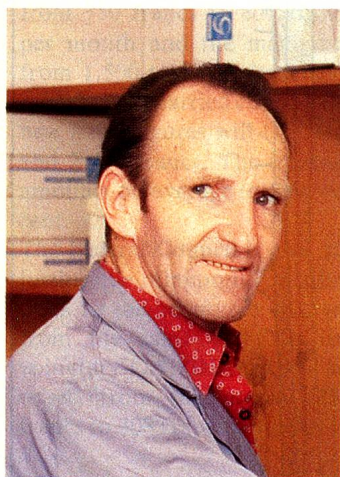
Wouldn't you like to visit Switzerland in 1991?

Are you attracted by the idea of spending a few days as guest of a Swiss family in our "Jubilee" year of 1991? We hope that as many as possible of our expatriate fellow Swiss citizens will take advantage of an interesting scheme which is to be launched shortly with the backing of various women's organisations.

In connection with the celebrations of the 700 years of the Confederation's existence, including the programme "Meet one another in '91", these organisations aim at helping as many Swiss men and women living abroad as possible to visit Switzerland and to take part in the "birthday" festivities. A further objective is that of reinforcing and intensifying the personal relationships between the Swiss expatriates and their compatriots resident in Switzerland. The scheme proposed is quite simple. A special secretariat is to be set up in 1990 to receive and process applications from Swiss living abroad, stating as

exactly as possible *when* they would like to come and *in which region* of Switzerland they would like to stay, and also by how many persons the applicant would be accompanied. If the secretariat has, as hoped, an offer of accommodation corresponding to the stated requirements, it will mail a confirmation to the applicant. Visitors will of course have to pay their own fares for travel to Switzerland, but it is the intention that their stay with the Swiss family should not cost them anything at all. – **Please look out for the application form which will be printed in one of the next issues of "Swiss Review".**

"The axe at home..."



...saves the carpenter." Friedrich von Schiller knew this very well. And we, the team at 26, Alpenstrasse in Berne know and appreciate every day just who saves us "the carpenter". It is our Bernhard ("Beny") Kolly who has been with the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad for 19

years and who is thus the longest-serving member of our staff. Mr. Kolly is what you would call (in German too) a good "allrounder": he is the master of the machine park and of our in-house printing shop; he is always on his way with the right tools whenever anything gets stuck; and he keeps our house in tip-top working order. At the same time he is largely responsible for seeing that you get your mail from the SSA properly, for Beny makes sure that all post leaves the house correctly stamped – no easy task, considering our international connections.

But this is only one side. Bernhard Kolly is also an inspired yodeller and flag thrower. Together with his wife, he has performed all over the world. JM

700 years Swiss Confederation

Calling all Valaisans

In the Canton of the Valais, plans are already well under way in connection with an ambitious and praiseworthy project. Its objectives are firstly to re-establish contacts between the descendants of those families that had emigrated long ago, and families living in the Valais of today, secondly, to invite expatriate Valaisans – and their descendants – wherever they may now be living, to visit the Valais in 1991, and thirdly to foster a continuation of these contacts after 1991.

The official ceremonies to commemorate the 700th anniversary in 1991 of the founding of the Confederation will be taking place on and around August 1st. Some of the visitors from other countries will then be invited officially for a stay of ten days by the town or village from which their forefathers had emigrated, and by the Cantonal authorities. Countries from which special travel arrangements will be offered at strongly reduced fares for descendants of Valaisan emigrants will probably include Argentina, Brazil, the USA and Canada.

We are hoping to attract many expatriate Valaisans and the descendants of former emigrants

Winter Camp 89/90

Our Youth Service will organize again a New-Year-Ski-Camp in 1989/90.

Place: Splügen GR

Date: 26.12.89 – 4.1.90

Price: Sfr. 580.–, incl. skiticket

Number of participants: max. 58

Conditions: Age from 15 to 25 years. Your father or mother must have a Swiss passport.

Application forms: Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16

Deadline for enrolment: December 1, 1989

from the Canton, to visit us in 1991, to re-establish personal contacts, to trace their "roots" if they so wish, and to participate in the festivities that will be scheduled for this important anniversary.

All readers who are interested in obtaining further information are requested to get in touch with the Chairman of the special Commission which has been set up to foster contacts with the Valaisan communities all over the world. His name and address are as follows: *Christophe Carron, Ruelle du Mazot Blanc, CH-1926 Fully*



Val d'Anniviers (Photo: SNT0)