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## People

32-year-old lawyer **Ruth Metzler** is the first woman to be elected by the Appenzell Inner-Rhodes Landsgemeinde to the cantonal government. This former judge and qualified accountant will take over the finances of the canton. There are now 24 women in 19 cantonal governments.



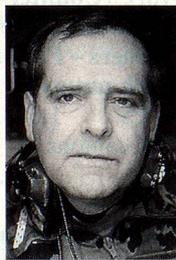
47-year-old district court president **Urs W. Studer** is Lucerne's new city president. Like his predecessor, Franz Kurzmeyer, he is non-party but is considered a liberal on social issues. His unsuccessful opponent and cousin, Peter Studer, was the official candidate of the Liberals and was supported by all the centre-right parties.

The new director general of Swiss radio and television is **Armin Walpen**. This 48-year-old lawyer succeeds Antonio Riva, who at 61 has taken early retirement. Walpen comes from Upper Valais and is a member of the Swiss People's Party.



**Peter Everts** (52) is to be the new head of Migros. He is at present Migros finance director and was previously head of Migros Berne. He will succeed Eugen Hunziker at the end of the year.

The Federal Council has named 48-year-old Brigadier **Jacques Dousse** from Fribourg as the new chief of general staff and at the same time promoted him to the rank of corps commander. He will succeed Jean-Rodolphe Christen, who retires on January 1, 1997, on grounds of age. This appointment of a comparatively young man to head the army is regarded as a milestone in Swiss military history.



**Myrtha Welti** has resigned as general secretary of the Swiss People's Party, a post she has held since spring 1994. She is going to Bonn with her husband, who has been appointed minister at the Swiss embassy.



53-year-old **Paul Reutlinger** is now running Sabena, the Belgian airline, which has merged with Swissair. In 1995 Sabena posted losses of Sfr. 21.2 million. Reutlinger was once head of marketing at Swissair, which is now also faced with serious problems. He will resign as president of Switzerland Tourism.



Another Swiss artist has received an accolade. 55-year-old actor **Bruno Ganz** has been given the Iffland Ring. This is awarded to "the most significant and most worthy stage artist in German-language theatre of his day" and is held for life. Ganz owes his fame to his roles in theatre, cinema and television.



## The Swiss Folklore Association 100 years old

This is based in Basle and was originally the guardian of well-known customs and costumes from both town and country. But it is now concerned with a wide spectrum of cultural studies, such as industrialisation, urbanisation and leisure. It collects and also produces brochures, videos, folksongs and photographs. These are made available to those interested free of charge.

## The Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences 50 years old

The Swiss Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Berne is celebrating its fiftieth birthday. It works on the perspectives and needs of these sciences, promotes research, develops

## Points of view

*"A financially ruined state is neither a social nor an efficient nor a competitive state. (...) I very much hope that in 2001 or 2002 I will be able to make the following brief speech as federal councillor at the National Exhibition; The federal finances are in order".*

Kaspar Villiger, the federal finance minister

*"Sometimes I have the feeling that we are doing nothing more than looking for opportunities to save a few francs".*

Dori Schaer, president of the Berne cantonal government

## The Bernese acquire a Zurich company

The Galactina group in Belp has decided to enter the field of medical technology. It has taken over Dentex AG, which is number two in the Swiss dental branch. Senior management says that further acquisitions are planned. Dentex provides services for a large number of the 3,500 dentists practising privately in Switzerland, as well as for university and school dental clinics. It plans and equips practices and supplies dentists with apparatus, instruments, materials and medicaments. It employs 65 people, and its sales amount to Sfr. 26 million.

In addition to this, Amidro of Biel, the purchasing cooperative of 740 chemists, is being rescued by Galenica. The two top managements describe their merger as a "marriage of love", but it will nevertheless lead to the loss of about 200 jobs.

## NEW ON THE INTERNET



Swiss Review is now on the World Wide Web. Its address is:  
<http://www.revue.ch>

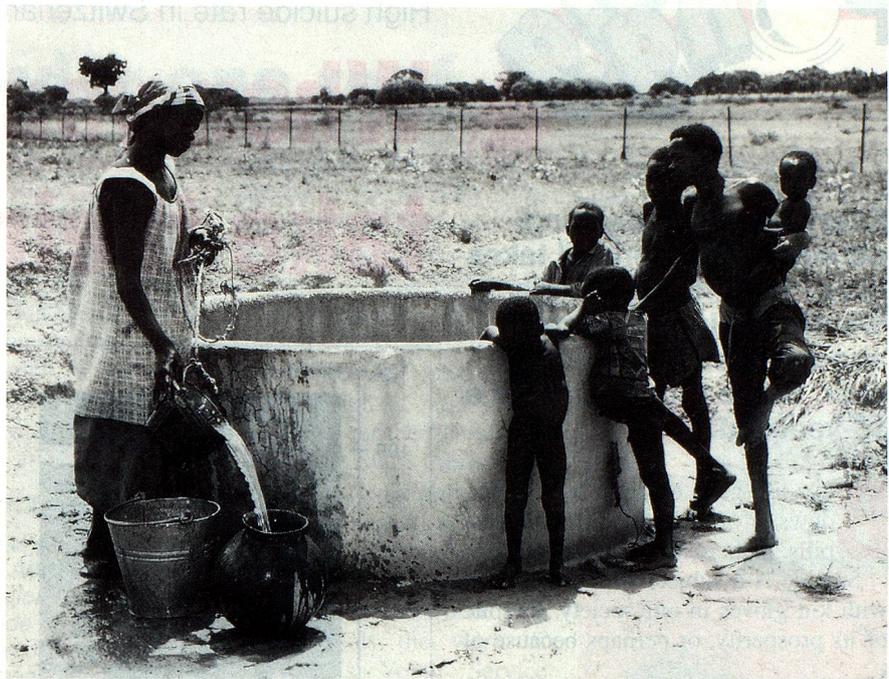
new policies and provides a wide range of services in its field. For example, it is at present preparing a new edition of the Historical Lexicon of Switzerland. This will appear soon in three languages.

## Fifty years of charitable work

At present several charities are celebrating their birthdays. These include the Pestalozzi Children's Village, Swiss Inter-Church Aid and the Chain of Happiness. They all stem from the wave of solidarity in the 1940s resulting from the Second World War. After having kept out of the hostilities it seemed appropriate for Switzerland to provide much-needed help to countries afflicted by war, political violence and natural disaster.

The foundation stone of the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen was laid just half a century ago. It started out as a place to live for orphan children from war-ravaged regions but has now turned into an institute famous for multi-cultural meetings. According to former Berne government member Leni Robert, president of the Foundation for the Pestalozzi Children's Village, it is now considered preferable to help children in their accustomed environment. In consequence there are only 70 children left in the village instead of the 160 to 220 of former years. Although they belong to other cultures, most of them were already living in Switzerland previously. They were given shelter in the village because of failed adoptions, integration problems or lack of family solidarity.

Swiss Inter-Church Aid has also been in existence for fifty years. It supports east European churches and works in the field of development cooperation, dis-



aster assistance and promoting human rights. It also looks after refugees in Switzerland. Its principles include setting up long-term partnerships and opening up church life in both confessional and social terms. For example, it organises help in the form of gifts in kind, scholarships, exchange schemes and holiday camps. Since 1993 it has also been helping poor people in Switzerland. The organisation spends about Sfr. 70 million per year.

The Chain of Happiness too is celebrating its fiftieth birthday. It was founded in 1946 at Radio-Studio Lausanne.

**The Chain of Happiness is one of many Swiss aid organisations. For example, in countries with water supply problems it helps build wells.**

At first the collection was for anything needed, but now it is for money only. Last year the Chain of Happiness supported 173 projects in 43 countries, donating Sfr. 36.5 million. In addition, every year it receives 1,600 applications for assistance from within Switzerland, and in 1995 it spent Sfr. 1.6 million on causes at home. ■

## Grasshoppers the champions, Sion the cup winners

Zurich's Grasshoppers are Swiss football champions for the 24th time. The club was founded in 1886 and won its first championship in 1898. In 1926 it was cup winner for the first of a total of 18 times. It has won the League Cup twice, it was UEFA Cup semi-finalist in

1978, and it participated in the Champions League in 1995. This is the best record of any team in Switzerland.

FC Sion won the cup for the 8th time, repeating its triumph of the previous year. It defeated Geneva's Servette in the final by 3 goals to 2. ■

## Newspaper marriage in Aargau

The two biggest Aargau dailies, "Aargauer Tagblatt" and "Badener Tagblatt", are to become one. The new "Aargauer Zeitung" will appear for the first time on November 4, with an initial circulation of 120,000. It will be the sixth biggest Swiss daily, with estimated annual sales of Sfr. 165 million and 720 employees. The merger of the two former arch-rivals will lead to fifty job losses in the editorial and technical departments. ■

## Where the money is

Income per head of population is more than twice as high in Canton Zug as in Valais; it amounts to an average Sfr. 44,500. Every fifth franc earned in Switzerland comes from Canton Zurich. According to the statistics for 1994, total Swiss income, i.e. earned income of employees and the self-employed plus income from shares and other investments, amounted to just Sfr. 313 billion – which was 2.1% more than in the previous year. ■

## Ticino University opens in October

A year after the Ticino parliament agreed to set it up and earmarked Sfr. 24 million for the first two years, the University of Italian-Speaking Switzerland is about to commence its activities. These will be the architecture academy, to be financed by the canton, in Mendrisio (its spiritual father being Mario Botta and its director Aurelio Galfetti) and the faculties of economics and communications sciences in Lugano, sponsored by the city government (see SR 2/96). Ticino is going ahead on its own initiative, i.e. before the Federal Council has recognised it as a university canton and has approved federal assistance. Lectures begin on October 21. ■

*Texts: Alice Baumann*

*Photos: Keystone, Alice Baumann*