

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 32 (2005)
Heft: 5

Anhang: Regional news : USA

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NEW YORK

swiss roots**Discover the Land of Your Forefathers**

Over one million Americans have Swiss roots, more than 5,000 American cities have Swiss names, and countless Americans are fascinated by the culture, diversity, and beauty of Switzerland. By the

Swiss representations in the U.S. and is supported by numerous organizations, including Presence Switzerland, Pro Helvetia, and Switzerland Tourism. **swiss roots** offers many possibilities for pro-

find relatives and get in touch with them. Starting in 2006, visitors to the website will have access to features such as a calendar with upcoming **swiss roots** events and profiles of famous Swiss emigrants.

They will also have the opportunity to exchange ideas with like-minded people in both countries. Visitors who feel inspired to visit the land of their forefathers can use the resources listed on swissroots.org to plan and book their trips.

There will also be various events in the U.S. to promote **swiss roots**. An exhibit about Swiss immigration to the U.S. will be at Ellis Island in New York from August to October 2006. A postal vehicle will

drive through several U.S. states and visit cities with Swiss names. Additional events will take place in the five U.S. states that have the highest concentration of Americans with Swiss roots (California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and New York).

swiss roots is a unique attempt to bring people from two

countries with common interests and traditions closer together. It offers them the opportunity to learn more about their heritage while discovering interesting and exciting new possibilities. It is an ambitious experiment dedicated to reviving old relationships and creating new ones.

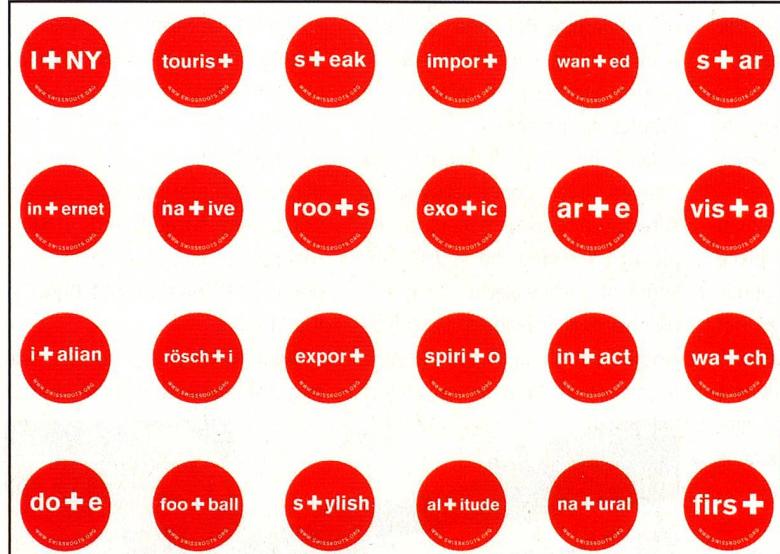
Text: Lukas Rieder

Swiss Consulate General in New York

vertretung@nyc.rep.admin.ch

Picture of pins:

Hello Inc., New York



same token, there are many Swiss people whose connections to the U.S. have increased as a result of tradition, personal interest, or the allure of the country.

Beginning in 2006, all of these people will have access to a platform that will allow them to explore their interest: **swiss roots**. This project is being launched by

motoring cultural, tourist and economic interaction between the U.S. and Switzerland.

The centerpiece of the campaign is the **swiss roots** website www.swissroots.org which will allow Americans to discover their Swiss roots and the land of their forefathers with just a few mouse clicks. They may even be able to

Next Regional News:

Swiss Review # 1/2006

Copy deadline: January 20

Mailing date: March 2

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MASSACHUSETTS

City Planner Dreams Of "Swiss Style" Swimming In Boston's Charles River

"River swimming is an activity I simply love, just as I remember it from my early years in Switzerland. I like the light dancing on the water, the force of the streaming current, right in a city with all



Swiss Consul Christoph von Arb and his wife Kathleen with Charles River Conservancy president Renata von Tscharner (right), listening to a Swiss Alphorn at event promoting Charles River swimming.

its people and excitement. I still go back to places like Bern and Basel to enjoy a great swim, but I want to be able to do it in America too!"

So says Renata von Tscharner. Growing up in Switzerland, she experienced the thrills of the fast flowing glacial river Aare below the parliament buildings in Bern. Later, while studying architecture in Zurich, she swam in the Limmat and the lake, where pavilions and saunas invited swimming late into the season.

When she immigrated to Cambridge in 1979 to work as an urban designer von Tscharner's first impulse was to plunge into the Charles River, a notion she was strongly urged not to give in

to. The river was not clean, she was told. She stayed out of the water, but volunteered to test it for contaminants. While remembering the wonderful hours she spent refreshing herself in Swiss rivers, she monitored the slowly improving health of the Charles. In 1995 the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's New England chief, John deVillars, set a goal she heartily supported – a swimmable Charles by 2005.

Meanwhile, her professional planning work focused on "place making" – the design of public spaces. In 1997 she resumed her teaching courses in the landscape program of the Radcliffe Seminars at Harvard University. And the subject she chose? – The parklands along the Charles River. Realizing the great potential of the place and the need to renew the Parklands after years of neglect and diminished state funding, she founded the Charles River Conservancy, a non-profit citizen advocacy group.

Swimming was very much part of the Conservancy's planning from the start – swimming in the Swiss style, of course. A simple bike ride or stroll to the river's edge and a chance to enjoy the cityscape from a new perspective while cooling off or exercising, that was von Tscharner's dream.

Fast forward to today – 2005 – and the EPA's goal of a swimmable Charles. People in Boston (and all Red Sox fans) have been inured to that old rock anthem to the Charles, "Love That Dirty Water." But von Tscharner's dream is coming tantalizingly close. While water quality in the Charles has substantially improved, there are still problems with toxic sediments

and a lack of recreational swimming infrastructure.

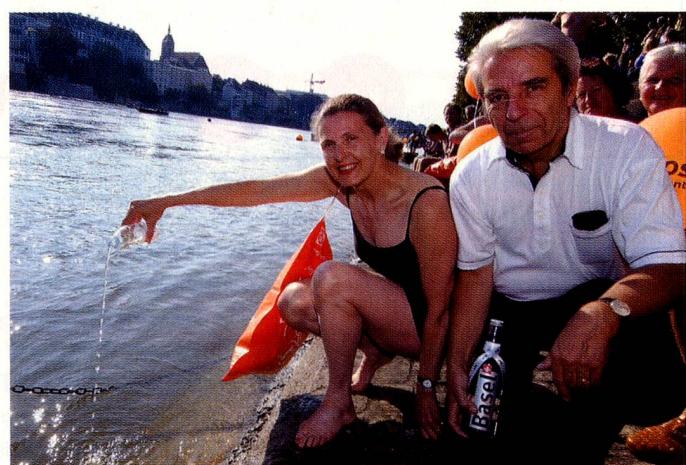
Now, the challenge is to provide beaches, floating docks, and waterfront pavilions. Toward that end, von Tscharner played the impresario this July, inviting a host of environmental and political leaders along with the media to reprise progress in making the Charles swimmable.

On the day following the Charles River Conservancy-sponsored event, Boston papers carried pictures showing the logical outcome of such speechmaking – a number of civic leaders, many fully clothed splashing happily around in the river! In a lemon yellow

for swimming in the Charles as it flows past its campus.

When von Tscharner planned her summer vacation in Switzerland this year she brought some water from the Charles River along with her. As over thousand citizens of the City of Basel celebrated the twenty-fifth Rhine-swim, she took part in the festivities by mixing the waters of the two rivers, as was reported on in the Swiss press. At the event, Dieter Scholer, president of the Basel-based Friends of Massachusetts, gave von Tscharner a bottle of Rhine water to bring to the Charles.

Swimming in the Swiss style may not be a reality in the Charles



At the 25th annual River Swim in Basel, Renata von Tscharner and Dieter Scholer, president of the Friends of Massachusetts, make a ceremonial exchange of waters from the Rhine and Charles rivers

dress, von Tscharner was the first to jump in.

While there are no official swimming spots in the Charles River yet, the "Big Splash" took place on the same day as bathers took to the water in 200 events across Europe to celebrate cleaner urban rivers. In Boston, a local university is now assessing the possibility of providing technical support

quite yet, but in the exchange of waters of two great rivers the promise can be seen. Von Tscharner may have her dream fulfilled, yet.

To learn more go to:

www.thecharles.org

Text: Peter Golden

Pictures: Boston picture with alphorn: Justin Knight

Basel picture: Dominik Pluss ■

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GEORGIA

Swiss American Society, Atlanta

See what's going on during an SAS year!

The Swiss American Society, Atlanta, is in its 52nd year, with a membership of around 45 families and 25 individuals. Among them are still two of the founding members who have lived through all the stages of the Club and certainly left their marks.



1st of August celebration in Atlanta.
A record crowd of 100 members and guests enjoyed the festivities.

The enthusiastic Board organizes a variety of events during the year. As I am writing this article I am looking back to a very successful **1st August Celebration** at beautifully decorated Martha Hope Cabin in Gainesville, GA. A record crowd of 100 members and guest enjoyed cubes of Grey-erzer and specially made 1st Au-

gust Weggen for aperitif and of course "Bratwurst und Cervelats vom Grill" with potato salad. The dessert buffet offered something for all tastes. Kids' faces lighted up in the gleam of the lampions they carried through the night.

Another staple event is the yearly **Fondue Night**. In February this year we needed two huge pots, in fact turkey fryers, to prepare the cheesy delight for almost 70 members and guests. In the aftermath of the disastrous December tsunami we asked everyone to bring an item to be raffled off at the very first **SAS Tombola**. Young and old enjoyed this typical Swiss form of entertainment, and we raised

more than 300 dollars to donate to Caritas. Due to the popularity it looks like we will have a Tombola again next year.

As you are reading this report we are busy preparing for the third highlight in an SAS calendar, the **Christmas Party**. It will be held on December 4th at the Sugo restaurant in Roswell for the second

time. Chef Castellucci will treat us to great Mediterranean dishes, and arrangements for entertainment in the festive atmosphere of the place are being made. **Santa** will pay a visit to the children at a separate outdoor event the day before.

Christmas is a busy season. For the third time SAS will sell **Raclette** at a booth during the **Christmas Market** on the grounds of the International School, and a group of ladies will carry on the tradition and decorate a typical **Swiss Christmas tree** at the big **Festival of Trees** charity event.

Besides these musts we offer other outings during the year. In May a small group ventured out to the Stovall House in the North Georgia Mountains for a **Sunday in the Country Side**. Not even the rain could dampen our mood.

This year we started a new tradition with a Swiss themed fall event, a "**Serata Ticinese**" in October. The idea was to highlight a region by serving culinary specialties, enjoy typical music and show off what we know about the culture, history and geography of

this area in a fun competition.

In January 2003 we started the monthly (well, almost!) **Ladies' Luncheons**. We try to combine visits to museums or exhibitions, unique shopping experiences and more with culinary adventures and of course making and meeting friends.

A report of the various activities and an outlook of planned events are always given at the **General**



Two turkey fryers were needed to prepare the fondue for 70 people!

Assembly, held in March. Suggestions from our members are certainly welcome, and the Board is constantly looking for new people in the crew. To me the involvement with the Club has proven to be a very rewarding experience. Not only did I get to know people with all kind of interesting stories, but I also got to explore Atlanta and its surroundings. So give it a try!

*Helen Freiermuth, President
Swiss American Society, Atlanta
770 503 1113
HelenFreiermuth@aol.co
www.sasatlanta.org*

Opening of Will

The following person, with his most recent residence in Zurich, died on December 6, 2004.

Emil Eduard Werner-Pfund, widowed, born on May 30, 1925 in Zurich, Swiss citizen of Zurich and Schaffhausen, son of **Emil Werner**, born on January 19, 1891, and of **Alma Helena née Dinkel**, born on May 28, 1896. The descendants of the grandparental kinship come into consideration as intestate heirs, i.e. among others also

any descendants of the mother's brother **Fritz Dinkel**, born on September 5, 1888 at Sisseln/ Canton of Aargau and evidently deceased. The latter is said to have immigrated to America in 1906. However, the deceased did dispose of his estate in full, by means of the testamentary disposition, which was opened by the below-mentioned court and which from a formal point of view is evidently valid, and nominated appointed heirs to

the devolution of the estate.

In accordance with the decree of the office of the sole judge in inheritance matters, dated May 4, 2005, the certificate of inheritance is therefore issued to the appointed heirs in their favor, provided that the intestate heirs do not raise an objection to this – as defined by Art. 559 Swiss Civil Code – within one month of this notification being published, evidencing their right to inheritance. The

intestate heirs further have the right – providing evidence of their right of inheritance – to examine the testamentary disposition at the court office of the named sole judge and to request a copy of it. Zurich, May 4, 2005

DISTRICT COURT OF ZURICH
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In Inheritance Matters
PO Box
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FLORIDA

Swiss-American Club of SW Florida

The June dinner at the Cypress Woods Golf & Country Club was a rather private gathering as there were only two couples dining be-

Strother's interesting slide show of her cruise on the QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 from Los Angeles to Sydney.



A farewell toast to Myrtha and Peter Buerge.

sides the members of the club. After an excellent meal everybody



The Olma Bratwursts were decorated with flags of the Swiss cantons.

moved over to the game room to enjoy Rosmarie

In July a small group gathered at a new Italian restaurant in North Naples to bid farewell to Myrtha and Peter Buerge who were returning to Switzerland.

The First of August Celebration took place at Rosie Spoonbill's Restaurant at the Brooks in Bonita Springs. The separate section of the restaurant where the dinner was served was nicely decorated with the flags of all Swiss cantons and lampions. While cocktails

were being served, Mr. Samuel Schmid's "Bundesfeier Rede" was played. On the menu was a huge Olma Bratwurst from a Swiss-American butcher, hot potato salad and red cabbage, followed by a delicious crème brûlée.

A special treat was offered to club members on September 1. Astrid and Adolf Schandroch invited them to their home in Bonita Springs for a Texas Barbecue party. Adolf served planter's punch from his outdoor bar, and the guests enjoyed their conversations in the exotic lanai. Astrid's Cockatiel flew all over the place and eventually landed on some heads, which caused some excitement and big laughter. Franz & Maria von Atzigen presented a surprise gift to



Unfolding of the surprise gift: a huge Swiss flag

the club donated by Hansruedi and Vreni Gerber of Punta Gorda. President Strother opened the big brown bag and uncovered a huge, old Swiss flag which was immediately hung up behind the pool. Adolf is a gifted chef who home-cooked an outstanding meal for this event. Nobody left hungry, for sure. Thank you, Astrid and Adolf, for your exceptional hospitality.

Summary of articles by Eva Stern, condensed by Rosmarie Strother;

*Photos: Peter Zahner
info@swissamericanclub.com*

CALIFORNIA

Two Consul Generals leaving



Franz Hunkeler - Los Angeles
accompanied by his charming wife Katharina has left Los Angeles to start his new - and last - tour of duty in Munich, Germany. We thank them for their dedicated work and hope they enjoy their next posting as much as they liked it in Los Angeles.

Wal Baur



Roland Quillet - San Francisco.
We bid farewell to one of the finest representatives this journalist has ever met. Dedicated, prompt, down-to-earth and mainly: an intelligent man who decided to retire NOW. So long Roland - we'll think of you very often and hope to hear from you from time to time!

Gaby H Burkert

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Events in and around San Francisco in 2005

Art exhibits at Swissnex

'The Shape Of Memory':

This exhibit was featured as "Metal comes to life in a resonant dialogue of movement and time as the magic of science meets the mystery of art". An extraordinary collaboration of sculptures and sounds, indeed, featuring Etienne Krahenbuehl – sculptor, Romainmotier, Rolf Gotthardt – physicist, Lausanne, Emilie Ellberger – composer and video-artist, Geneva. The artists convince with their solutions. Swissnex gave the ideal frame to this venture. And its director, Christian Simm made a wise decision to do this art show.



Marc-Olivier Wahler (l) followed invitation by Christian Simm to speak at Swissnex

And right here I would like to encourage anyone who loves culture to sign up with swissnex to receive their e-mails – the events are simply grand style to say the least.

'Swiss' – a Concept?:

Marc Olivier Wahler, Director of the Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art in New York is an enthusiastic speaker. A display of fireworks! "Why is Swiss Art – its artists and institutions – now placed in the realm of the Avant-Garde? We are far beyond Orson Welles' assertion about Switzerland and the production of cuckoo clocks ... This conference will attempt to show that an adequate comprehension of

Plugging into the Future - the 2000 Kilowatt Society

Hard to believe that the average Swiss or American uses 12000 kilowatts per day! Hard to believe as well is the fact that we could save enough energy to make ends meet with 2000 kilowatts per day. Of course this presentation was part of WED (World Environment Day) in San Francisco.

Zurich luminaries showcased leading-edge technologies and the public-private partnership be-



From l to r: Roland Quillet, Consul General of Switzerland in San Francisco; Eliane Rey, City Counselor of Lausanne, Switzerland; Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco; Dr. Elmar Ledergerber, Mayor of Zurich, Switzerland, Walter Anderau, SwissRe and Dick Fredericks, former US Ambassador to Switzerland. They all found their way to the Zueri Tram happening at the Embarcadero in San Francisco!

contemporary Swiss art shines a unique light on today's art in general. More than approach, shifted, of contemporary art in all its most recent developments." Want to know more? A visit to the Swiss Institute – Contemporary Art in NYC is highly recommended! Don't miss out on your next trip to the big Apple and get to know Marc-Olivier Wahler.

tween the City of Zurich, the ETH (the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich) and SwissRe, which is responsible for a 'Greener Zurich'. Leaders from the public and private sector presented cutting-edge green buildings and technologies that have improved comfort for tenants and increased income for owners and developers, and, last but not least – delivered sustainable benefits to society. The workshop intended to serve as a toolbox for implementing sustainability initiatives in other regions from economical, technological and social perspectives.

What impressed me the most were the strong policies of the City of Zurich. Under the leadership of its Mayor Elmar Ledergerber - the best qualified scientist turned politician I've ever met. See and read more at: www.visitzurich.org.

The 'Zueri-Tram', a gift from Zurich to San Francisco

While close to a hundred mayors from around the world met in San Francisco to attend WED (World Environment Day – a first time event in the United States), the mayor of Zurich, Dr. Elmar Ledergerber, in conjunction with the San Francisco-Zurich Initiative, presented a Zueri-Tram to his San Francisco counterpart, the jovial Gavin Newsom. On Saturday, June 4, many local Swiss-Americans and some from as far away as Nevada and Utah joined Consul General of Switzerland in San



The biggest Züri-Tram-Fan: Rives Peter Wessling

Francisco, Roland Quillet and the two charter members of the sister-city initiative, namely Dick Fredericks (former US Ambassador to Switzerland) and Walter Anderau (President SwissRe) to witness the ribbon cutting of the symbolic gift to San Francisco.

The Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce 'Scavenger hunting'?

No other than the Consul General of Switzerland, Roland Quillet

let got personally involved in this event. He invited the organizers and the participants to the Sea Cliff-Residence to sign in and to have breakfast at the heart-warming buffet on that memorable June 11, 2005

Once signed in and with coffee and croissant in hand – we all started to study the contents of the manila envelope received. The Scavenger Hunt included 7 stops between San Francisco and Healdsburg way up in Sonoma County.

Stop 1: Larkspur Landing.

Stop 2: the Ris Piano Company in San Rafael.

Stop 3: Paragraphics on Mitchell Blvd in San Rafael.

Stop 4: find Miwok Park in Novato. We did – and were greeted by the board members of the Swiss



The Swiss Benevolent Society prepared a fabulous lunch for the "scavenger hunters"

Benevolent Society who prepared a fabulous luncheon for us! They were all there and too numerous to mention all. But the one, which has worked for this Society for 40+ years (even though he still looks and feels very young) is Jean Maillard. What a trooper together

with his Linda!

Stop 5: SPT (Swiss Precisions Tools).

Stop 6: SUNTREK in Santa Rosa.

Stop 7 was the final approach: the Bucher's farm in Healdsburg – where Joe and Annemarie Bucher set up tables for about a hundred

to dwell on the dinner catered by Roti Roti. A hearty thank you does go to Il Massimo – the caterer who sponsored the beverages!

The prizes were awarded. Happy faces! The non-winners were equally happy. With so much fun and good companionship – how could anyone even think of points or even dare to count them.

Text and photos:

Gaby H Burkert

Grueziwohl@aol.com

except photo Züri-Tram-Fan:

Michele Monique Imfeld

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LOUISIANA

Happier times in New Orleans!

On July 31, 2005 members of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans gathered at the lovely home of Helene Sparacello to celebrate the 1st of August. Members brought cheese, appetizers, salads and desserts, and the society provided the grilled Bratwürste and beverages. A local accordionist played Swiss folk music, and despite having just spent six weeks in a hospital, the society's president, Myrtha Lovelace, yodeled for us. This photo was taken in front of the UCM Museum in Abita Springs that is owned and operated by Mrs. Preble's son, John Preble, who is an artist.



Mrs Marie Louise Spoerri Preble, John Geiser, Dr. Albert F. W. Habeeb, Warren Preble, Patty Muehlemann, Paul Muehlemann, Ann O'Brien Preble and John Preble. This photo was taken in front of the UCM Museum in Abita Springs that is owned and operated by Mrs. Preble's son, John Preble, who is an artist.

Earlier in July, several members of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans visited Mrs. Marie Louise Spoerri Preble in Abita Springs, Louisiana. She is the society's senior member but cannot attend the society's regular meetings in New Orleans anymore.

*Text and photos:
Paul Muehlemann*



Eileen Fehr, Kathleen Leemann, Richard Leemann, Activities Director and Patty Muehlemann



Richard Leemann and accordionist Julie Council



Mrs. Myrtha Lovelace, president of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans



Grilling Bratwürste: John Comeaux, Liselotte "Lottie" Comeaux, Helene Sparacello, our hostess, Marcel Lovelace and René Lovelace

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The above article and the pictures were sent to Swiss Review prior to the hurricane Katrina and the catastrophic inundations. The only news we were able to get were that Patty and Paul Muehlemann and John Geiser are ok. We can only hope that all the people pictured and their friends and families survived and are well.

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Collection of Fabulous Fabrics from St. Gallen in LA

Switzerland is known for its fairytale fabrics for the high fashion industry – designers in Paris, London, Milan, Rome, Tokio or Germany look to Swiss fabrics for their creations. Around the world, runways include many Swiss creations.

Besides their delicacy and beauty, Swiss fabrics are unmatched in quality: Silks do not wrinkle and travel well, colors do not fade, embroideries are out of this world - every flower or leaf seems to do credit to nature. Cottons are as light as a cloud and wonderfully comfortable to wear. So is the wool. If you wear a dress made of Swiss fabrics, you will be noticed. Remember: No one knows whether or not you are wearing a NEW dress, but everyone will notice when you are wearing a GOOD dress. If you know how much effort, devotion, creativity goes into quality fabrics, you will respect this traditional Swiss industry.

The range of variety does not stop there. For everyday consumer needs, St. Gallen produces a large spectrum of fabrics for raincoats,

upholstery, household use, textiles for the filter industry, other industrial purposes, for military use, and more.



Scarf - 100 % Silk - Made in Switzerland

Dr. Cornel Dora, State Librarian in St. Gallen put together an excellent travelling exhibition of St. Gallen's manufacturing capacity, and in cooperation with the Consulate General of Switzerland, and the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Los Angeles, organized a fine show at its new, contemporary campus with its own park downtown on Grand Avenue.

The opening reception on May 26, 2005 drew a large and festive crowd. Consul General Franz Hunkeler warmly welcomed the guests, thanked all organizers and supporters, then gave the mike to Barbara Bundy, Vice President Education of FIDM, who was instrumental in realizing this event and also organized Swiss fashion exhibits at the Institute on previous occasions. And finally, Dr. Dora underlined the event with a spirited, humorous and well documented address. It was a particularly beautiful and festive event.

Doris Ritzi

Corona del Mar

Always on August 1st, a group of Swiss friends gather in Southern California to celebrate the Swiss National Holiday. Everyone looks forward to a great party. The hearts mellow to the sounds of alphorns and thoughts go back to family and friends in faraway Switzerland. Here and there someone may wipe a tear in secrecy. But soon Handörgeli music invites everyone to sing along to well-known Swiss folk songs.

There is no doubt that Swiss abroad love their homeland and

like to keep up tradition celebrating the event with pride. Like these Swiss friends do in Corona Del Mar, CA.

Fred R.
Waechter
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net



Nelly Wyss, Hans Schmutz, Nick Greville, Heidi Stahel, Rita Glenn, Lutz Venzlaff, Trudy Buck, Lucie Greville, Dom Saccacio, Lore Waechter, Esther Venzlaff, Verena Saccacio, Elisabeth Hirt, Ernie Treichler, Johanna Treichler, Annemarie Zihlmann, Franz Zihlmann, Hedy Schmutz, Marie-Louise Weinberger, Sabina Gibson, Dean Capper, Franzie Sprague, Larry, Beatrice Capper, Monique Berman, Eben Sprague, Richard Glenn, Fred Waechter, Walter Fumey.

Southern California

They came, they sang and they yodeled!

25th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival



From June 23 to 26 Long Beach was the Swiss Singing and Yodeling capital of North America. The opening ceremony, welcoming nearly 500 singers and guests, was called "Switzerland meets Hol-

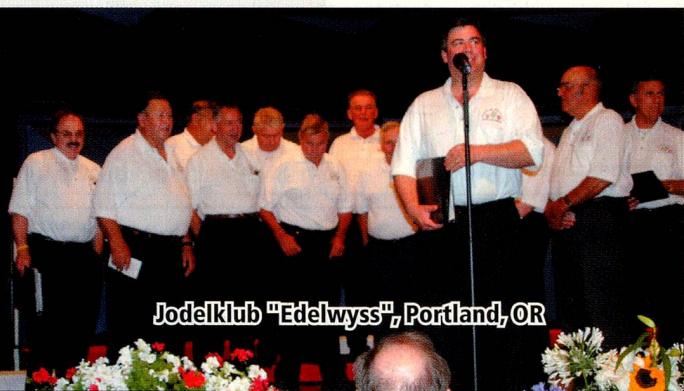
lywood". Friday's Grand Concert saw over 230 singers and musicians on stage. Saturday was a "Volksfest" at the Swiss Park in Whittier and Sunday finished with a "Jodlermesse" and the Gala-

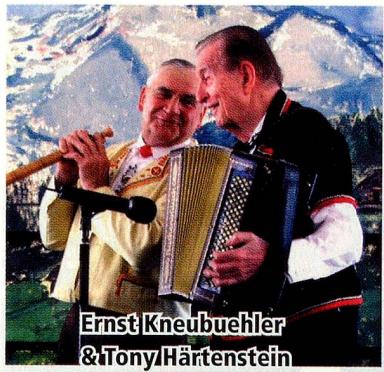
Lunch with flag parade. To get an idea of what it all looked like, just enjoy the pictures. If you would like to know what it all sounded like, buy the 2-CD-set from the Grand Concert or get the song-

book to sing along with the choirs. And if you liked it, come and join us in three years in Portland/OR for the next Festival.

Text: Wal Baur

Photos: Monica McIntyre





Ernst Kneubuehler
& Tony Härtenstein



Shirley Abbott Clark



San Joaquin Valley "Swiss Echoes", Ripon, CA



Lisa Ward & Fred Burri



Ur(i)-Schwyz Alphornsextett



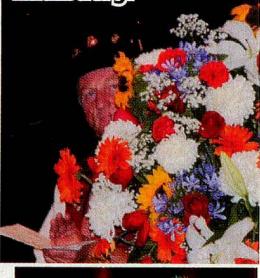
The Swiss Ländler Gamblers



Barbara & Kätrin Klossner

& Ernst Dubi

Saturday's MC:
RudiBuergi



Peter Rosenast



Swiss Singing Society of San Francisco



One of the many
beautiful "Treichle"



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Schützenchorli Kirchberg, Switzerland



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