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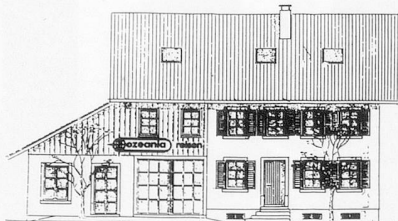
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DISAPPEARING FARMS

According to a report from the "Bauernverband", the number of farms decreases every year by around 2% in Switzerland. In other words, every day of the year, an average of 6 farms (Bauernhöfe) disappear, swallowed up by industrial, housing or road constructions. At the moment, Switzerland still has around 100,000 agricultural enterprises.

ARMY SURPLUS

As the Swiss army is going to be reduced by 200,000 men, an enormous amount of surplus material and equipment has to be disposed off. The Military Department reckons that every soldier requires around one ton of material and hardware. So the Department faces the dilemma how to get rid of 200,000 tons of tanks, aircraft, canons, trucks, ammunition, rifles and whole railway wagons full of uniforms. To dispose of all this surplus equipment will be a long and costly task. 20,000 tons of steel used in the now obsolete tanks have to be melted down at heavy costs and mountains of unwanted ammunition must be carefully defused, dismantled and disposed off, a job which can only be tackled by experts.



HD LÄPPLI

Do you remember him: Alfred RASSER as HD LÄPPLI, the hit show in Switzerland in the 1950's poking fun at the Swiss army in a way only a Basler could do?

Well, the photo does not show Alfred Rasser, but his son Roland who, at the age of 61 revived his father's HD Lämppli in such a convincing way, that even Alfred's wife, Adele (left on photo) celebrating her 80st anniversary was amazed about the similarity.

However, both Adele and son Roland have now decided that the HD LÄPPLI show has had its time although it is still hugely popular throughout Switzerland even after 40 years. Says Roland: "You have to stop some time. I cannot play HD LÄPPLI until I am 100 years old".

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NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: September 1994 for September and October. All contributions must be in by 15 August. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

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