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SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER. National Day Celebration.

Our programme this year was very ambitious and the bad weather of the latter part of July had caused some anxiety.

However, on Sunday August 2nd, a clear sky and a gentle breeze promised us a fine day as we left Piccadilly, Manchester, by motor coach and private cars, for an extensive tour of some of the finest parts of Derbyshire.

In a few minutes we had left the built-up area behind us and approached the gentle slopes of the Pennines, soon to climb the more arid Snake Pass, a mountain pass indeed with winding road and deep ravines. Past the summit the scene changes completely as everything is now much greener and there are more trees, even whole forests of Pines, reminiscent of some parts of Switzerland, as say the Emmenthal or the Jura. The Ladybower reservoir, formed by the waters of the Derwent and Ashop rivers, is on our right and here and there juts out into side valleys: on all sides hills of various shapes, among them the famous "Win Hill" climbed each year by our intrepid younger members in one of our traditional Sunday rambles. After crossing the river Derwent just beyond the village of Hathersage, we halted for an hour in a meadow on the slopes of Eyam Moor. As company we had a herd of cows, some bold enough to approach us and beg for some of our pic-nic lunch. In the sky, quite silent but shining in the sunshine, a few gliders from the National competition at Great Hucklow, only a couple of miles away on the other side of the moor. Now we continue our journey through roads bordered by woods, soon to reach Chatworth Great Park, where we stayed for the early afternoon. A visit of Chatsworth House, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, impressed us by the greatness of the rooms and furnishings and the beauty of the sculptures, paintings and perhaps most of all by the huge library. And of course the gardens which are of supreme beauty.

We were due at Buxton at 5 o'clock, so soon after 4.15 p.m. we had to be on our way. Again through scenery of unsurpassed beauty. We crossed Taddington Woods — a preserve of the National Trust — and our road was in the dales bordering the river Wye, with steep cliffs of limestone and a profusion of trees, the characteristic Derbyshire countryside.

Buxton is always a pleasant place and our Hotels were part and parcel of the famous "Quadrant". After tea, served at the Old Hall Hotel, we adjourned to the St. Anne's Hotel for the official part of our National Day Celebration. The Chair was taken by our president Mr. E. R. Cottet. First the message of the President of the Swiss Confederation was read by our Consul Mr. Oscar Schneider and was followed by the singing of the "Schweizer Psalm". Then Mr. Cottet addressed us in English, stressing specially the conduct expected of us as Swiss. He welcomed the youngest participant, little Nicholas Brock, aged 8 months, and looked forward to the time when he may also be president. This was followed by the reading of the Pact of 1291, in an English translation, by Mr. H. Monney. Our Consul Mr. Schneider now added a few words in Swiss German dialect, and the official part ended by the singing of the National Anthem.

But it was not all over; now our president orders drinks for all and until 8.15 p.m. the room was merry with singing.

The return to Manchester is again over moorland and our young ladies at the back of the coach impressed us with uninterrupted singing and yodelling.

H.M.

SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE. National Day Celebrations.

The compatriots of the North celebrated our Country's independence with an outing by bus to Crieff, Lochearnhead and Callander.

Young and old — we all gathered at lunch time on Sunday 2nd August for this year's Birthday celebration of our Confederation. Soon after we left Dunfermline, the sun brightened the lovely countryside. The participants began to sing the popular Folk songs and in every face you could see happiness. They were "at home" amongst their own ones.

A delicious tea awaited us at Callander. Thanks to Mr. Vogel, the President of our Entertainments Committee, no time was lost waiting for a meal. This gave us the opportunity of sight-seeing for 1½ hrs. in Callander before leaving for home again, via Stirling and Alloa, where we had another stop of half an hour.

A message of good wishes was conveyed to the members from Mr. Frick. Our President was one of the lucky ones to celebrate our National Day at home. The Vice-President proposed a vote of thanks to the Entertainment Committee and especially to Mr. Vogel on behalf of all participants. The thorough arrangements which were made, enabled us to have a really enjoyable outing.

"Long live Switzerland"

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 11th, 1953. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: O. Wuest, L. O. Adam, V. Tenger, E. Eha, H. Waibel, Mrs. A. M. Themans, G. Jenne, Ed. E. Rognon, O. Ernst, M. Leuba, H. Trepp.

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