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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The funeral of the late Federal Councillor Dr. Markus Feldmann, former head of the Federal Police and Justice Department — who died suddenly of heart failure — took place in Berne on the 7th of this month.

On the morning of the funeral the remains were transferred from the chapel of the "Burgerspital" to the *salon* of the Federal Council at the Palais Fédéral.

Large crowds, many in mourning, gathered outside the Parliament building to witness the cortège, which wended its way from the "Bundesplatz" to the Minster.

Amidst the tolling of church bells the coffin, covered by the Swiss national flag, was carried by six officers and placed on a gun-carriage drawn by six horses.

A squadron of cavalry headed the funeral procession, immediately followed by a delegation of the students corps "Zähringia" of which Dr. Feldmann was a member, and by a number of carriages with flowers and wreaths. Next came a battalion of infantry with a regimental band. The gun-carriage bearing the coffin was flanked on each side by members of the Federal Council, and behind it followed a number of cars with members of the family of the deceased.

Then followed on foot former Federal Councillors, General Guisan with high ranking army officers, Members of Parliament, delegations of the Supreme Federal Courts, close collaborators who worked with the deceased at the Federal Police and Justice Department, members of the diplomatic and consular corps, and the foreign and military attachés in full uniform. Behind them followed the "Stadtmusik" playing "Ich hatt' einen Kameraden".

The cortège ended with delegations of the cantonal Governments (headed by their beadles), the National Bank, the Swiss Federal Railways, the Churches and Universities.

The funeral service was held at the Minster, where the coffin was placed in front of the altar. After an

organ *prélude*, the members of the "Berner Liedertafel" and "Berner Männerchor" sang. Pastor Ulrich Müller referred in his funeral oration to the eminent services which the deceased had rendered to the country, and his love of justice and human rights. The sermon was followed by Händel's sonata in C minor, played by the municipal orchestra, and an address by Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation. The latter, on behalf of the Federal Council and the entire Swiss population, paid a touching tribute to the departed for the eminent services which Dr. Feldmann in his high office had rendered to the country, concluding his address with particulars of the distinguished career of the deceased, and extending the sympathy of the Government and the Swiss people to the family.

The President of the Confederation was followed by the President of the Bernese Government, Mr. W. Siegenthaler, who spoke of the distinguished services the departed had rendered during the time when he was a member of the cantonal Government.

The two choirs in conclusion then rendered Gottfried Keller's "O mein Heimatland". The interment took place at the "Schosshalde" Cemetery, and was attended only by members of the family and the Federal Council. Federal Judge Dr. W. Stauffer, on behalf of the "Zähringia" students corps, placed the cap and ribbon of the departed on the coffin before it was lowered to its last resting place.

\* \* \*

The President of the Swiss Confederation, on the occasion of the coronation of Pope John XXIII, sent a telegram of congratulations. The Federal Council was represented at the coronation by former Federal Councillor Dr. Enrico Celio, in the capacity of Ambassador on "special mission", and Colonel Georges de Sury d'Aspremont, a former commander of the Swiss Papal Guard.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

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The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.6 million passengers during the month of September 1958, or 400,000 fewer than in September 1957. Receipts: 33.5 million francs (September 1956: 34.2 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.08 million tons, which is 172,000 tons less than during the same period in 1957. Receipts: 43 million francs (September 1957: 43.8 million francs).

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has nominated the following to represent the Confederation at the 10th Assembly of UNESCO, which is at present taking place in Paris: M. Pierre Micheli (Swiss Ambassador in Paris), M. Bernard Barbey (Minister Plenipotentiary), M. Camille Brandt, Mlle. Felicia Colombo, and Mr. E. Riehner (editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung").

Messrs. Sven Stiner, Parcal Frochaux and René Dovaz are acting as advisers to the delegation.

### Cantonal

The Rockefeller Foundation of New York has donated the amount of 50,000 dollars to the University of Zurich. This amount is to be used for the equipment of the laboratories under the care of Professor Dr. Ernst Hadorn ("Laboratorien der Zoologisch-Vergleichend Anatomischen Institutes"). (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The community of Dietikon (Ct. Zurich) has honoured Mr. Karl Heid, postmaster and local historian, with honorary citizenship. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

A serious accident occurred at the Bellevueplatz in Zurich when two tramway-cars collided owing to the brakes of one of the cars not functioning.

Two persons were killed and several injured. The dead were Julius Schwellinger (80) and Jacques Aubaret (36), commercial employee, both of Zurich. The material damage is estimated to amount to over 40,000.—francs. (A.T.S.)

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The 15 million francs loan, at 4 per cent, of the "Maschinenfabrik" Oerlikon was heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had to be considerably reduced. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The collection for the "Schweizer Auslandhilfe", which was closed on 30th September 1958, brought in the amount of 902,095.—francs (1957: 880,551.—francs). (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The tribunal of the Saane district (Ct. Fribourg) has sentenced to six months' imprisonment (conditional) an eighteen-year-old motorist who, by driving his car at excessive and dangerous speed, caused the

death of a woman pedestrian. He absconded after the accident, but three days later surrendered to the police. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Two young men, aged twenty and twenty-five, under the pretence of hawking, entered the house of Alphonse Vial (74), an invalid, in the village of Le Cret (Veveyse district, Ct. Fribourg). They set upon him and robbed him of 1,000.—francs, after which they disappeared on a motor-cycle. The police later arrested the two gangsters, recovering part of the stolen money. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

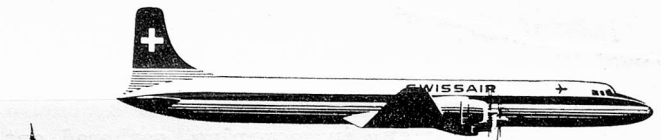
The "Basler Kunstmuseum" has lost one of its celebrated pictures, the "Darmstädter Madonna" by Hans Holbein the younger.

In 1947 Prince Ludwig of Hessen entrusted it to the museum for safe keeping, on condition that it would be returned when the "Kunstmuseum" in Darmstadt — which was partly destroyed during the last war — was rebuilt. This having been done, the picture was sent to Darmstadt on the 15th of this month. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Dr. jur. Dieter Staehelin has been elected President of the "Zivilgericht" of Basle. [A.T.S.]

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Two women entered the premises of a Bank at St. Moritz and snatched a bundle of banknotes to the value of 10,000.— francs from the cashier, after which they decamped. So far they have not been traced.

[A.T.S.]

A farmer in Grono (Ct. Ticino) was attacked by two intruders in his stable during the night. On his calling for help a neighbour hurried to his assistance and was also set upon. The two aggressors were overwhelmed and arrested by the police, who had arrived in the meantime. [A.T.S.]

The "Sägerei Pierre Fornier", of Beuson (Ct. Valais), was totally destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to amount to 50,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Madame Sophie Dubied-Haag, of Buttes (Ct. Neuchâtel), died at the age of 100 years and 5 months, at the Home for old people in Cressier. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Emma Thévenaz (40), an employee at a Geneva dispensary, lost her life while on a climbing excursion on the Salève near Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The "Collège de Genève" has celebrated the 400th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the railway station of Cornavin (Geneva), partly destroyed one of the administration buildings. The damage caused is estimated to be about 60,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Dr. Pierre Lardy, since 1946 Professor "für Baustatik, Hoch- und Brückenbau" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 56.

Emil Debrunner, from 1931 to 1941 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich, and from 1908 to 1920 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 88.

Pastor William Cuendet, in Lausanne, at the age of 73. The deceased was a preacher at the "Eglise Libre" Zurich from 1911 to 1924, and at the "Eglise Libre" Lausanne from 1924 to 1949. From 1928 to 1953 he was Secretary of the "Amis de la pensée protestante".

Fritz Nydegger, at one time editor of "Der Grütliener", and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 80.

Arthur Reichenbach, mountain guide, in Gsteig near Saanen.

Otto Pflighard, in Zurich, at the age of 89. The deceased was a well-known architect, and from 1917 to 1936 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich.

Mme. Berta Corrodi, in Zurich, aged 92. She was at one time a noted concert singer. She sang under the pseudonym of "Marcelle Pregi" at most of the musical centres in Europe, under conductors such as Gustave Mahler, Nikisch, Hegar and Strauss.

Ernest Brandt, in Lausanne, at the age of 74. The deceased was the founder of the firm "Gameo", the sales organisation of "Omega" Bienne. He was an eminent personality in the Swiss watch industry, and

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held the following appointments: Vice-President of the board of "Omega" Bienne, President of the "Groupements des fournisseurs d'horlogerie", and Vice-President of the "Industrie Horlogère, S.A." Geneva.

Dr. Oskar Wohnlich, from 1913 to 1948 Rector of the "Kantonsschule" Trogen, in Trogen, aged 75.

Professor Dr. H. Bertogg, a former preacher, and since 1944 a teacher of History at the "Bündner Kantonsschule", in Chur, at the age of 55. The deceased was a noted writer on historical subjects. In 1944 the theological faculty of the University of Basle honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. med. Henri Joliat, for nearly 50 years an eminent specialist for nose, ear and throat diseases, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 78. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Karl Herzog (80), of Stein (Fricktal), from 1936 to 1947 Central President of the Swiss Innkeepers Association. On his retirement he was elected Honorary President of the Association.

Johannes Iten (70), of Schwarzenegg (Ct. Berne), from 1939 to 1954 Director of the "Kunstgewerbe Schule" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES.

The late Karl Aklin, licensee, of Zug, has left the amount of 110,000.— francs to the "Bürgerspital" Zug.

The recently deceased Mrs. Frieda Bachmann, of Rapperswil, has left legacies amounting to 7,900.— francs to various charitable and religious institutions.

The late Robert Kunz-Schiess, of Uster, has left the amount of 64,000.— francs to charity. [A.T.S.]

#### ARMY.

A military vehicle, carrying four soldiers of the "Panzertruppen-Rs-221", skidded and overturned near St. Croix. Recruit Walter Oppliger (20), a mechanic, of Lyssach, was killed, and two of the other soldiers had to be taken to hospital. [A.T.S.]

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Th. Müller-Knecht, of Neuthal near Wald (Ct. Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. G. Kuenzli-Lüscher, of Untermuhlen; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mendler-Ochsner, of Engelberg.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Heizmann-L'Epée, of Lausanne, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Holliger-Stainer, of Seengen (Ct.

Aargau), have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

#### TRAFFIC AND MOTORING ACCIDENTS.

Mr. Karl Gnos-Blaser (77), master locksmith, of Lanquart (Ct. Grisons), when cycling, was run over by a motor-car and killed.

Two persons were killed and two seriously injured when a motor-car on overtaking a motor-cyclist collided with an oncoming car on the road between Ettiswil and Sursee (Ct. Lucerne). Those killed were Mrs. Margrit Roschi-Gautschi (41), of Zurich, and Franz Amrein (28), of Daiwil. The two children of Mrs. Roschi received serious injuries.

Mr. Rolf Zesiger (23), of Berne, lost his life when his motor-car skidded and overturned on the road between Fribourg and Flamatt.

A motor-cycle driven by Mrs. Maria Zumstein (49), of Münchenstein, collided with a cyclist in the Gundeldinger district. The driver of the motor-cycle was killed.

A collision occurred on the Badenerstrasse in Zurich, between a motor-car and a cyclist. The latter, Alfred Rubi (57), plasterer, of Zurich, received fatal injuries.

Mrs. Marie Leupi (76), of Wikon (Ct. Lucerne), was run over by a motor-car and killed. Alfred Benz (59), of Baden, pushing his cycle on the road from Killwangen to Neuhof, was run over by a motor-car and killed. Mrs. Seiler-Huber (83), of Dottikon, was run over by a cyclist and received fatal injuries. Daniel Winkler (4), of Neuchâtel, was run over by a motor-car and lost his life. Ernst Kummer (26), of Winterthur, was killed when his car collided with a sand-box near Ellikon. Christian Wacker (35), potter, of Schwanden, crashed into a lorry with his motor-cycle; he was killed. Joh. Gfeller (74), of Hirschtal, was run over by a motor-car and received fatal injuries. Albert Egger (55), of Au (Ct. St. Gall), was run over by a motor-car and killed; he leaves a widow and four children. The motorist, who did not stop after the accident, was later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

#### VARIOUS.

The enterprising hoteliers of Martigny have launched a new scheme, which will be welcomed by those Winter Sports enthusiasts who do not want to miss the Christmas atmosphere during their holiday. For an inclusive price (Fr. 25.— to Fr. 30.— without bath of Fr. 31.— to Fr. 34.— with bath) guests are called for daily at 9 a.m. at their hotels in Martigny

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### CRONACA NOSTRANA.

*Lo spopolamento, l'esodo rurale, l'impoverimento dell'economia montana* non sono un fenomeno unicamente ticinese. Rientrano nello sviluppo e nelle modificazioni di struttura di tutte le economie moderne. La produzione agricola non è più il ramo principale d'attività che assorbe la percentuale maggiore della popolazione. La migrazione, dall'attività agricola e rurale verso l'attività degli altri settori (industria, commercio, amministrazioni, professioni liberali ecc.) risponde allo sviluppo tecnico e alle esigenze produttive del mondo moderno, e, come tale, è inarrestabile, necessaria, salutare. Però l'agricoltura non perde per questo la sua ragione di essere, come base indispensabile e come fonte di sussistenza di ogni economia nazionale. Non possiamo sacrificarla totalmente all'industrializzazione e all'urbanesimo. Un'economia rurale forte e vitale è necessaria all'equilibrio di un paese. Il suolo, le acque, i boschi, i pascoli non sono beni disprezzabili, ma rimangono una ricchezza, al servizio della quale bisogna saper mettere l'uomo e la tecnica, per valorizzare meglio la loro produttività. Non si tratta di abbandonare la terra, ma di rivalorizzarla, con tutti i procedimenti tecnici e di razionalizzazione del lavoro che la nostra epoca ci mette fortunatamente a disposizione.

#### DI PICCOLO TAGLIO.

LUGANO — E' apparso in questi giorni un libro dal titolo: "Sulle strade regine del Mendrisiotto". Si tratta di un'opera di Oscar Camponovo, da Pedrate in Lugano, valente ingegnere, per molti anni residente all'estero (Parigi, Milano) da dove rimpatriò con quello amore di terra lontana che fa più tenace e profondo l'attaccamento all'oggetto della propria passione, sulla storia del Mendrisiotto (Alla ricerca dei tempi che furono — Il Baliaggio di Mendrisio — L'antica pieve di Balerna) che, pur avendo l'Autore già dato ripetuti saggi della sua valentia di studioso di materie storiche ci lascia attoniti di riverenziale ammirazione.

LOCARNO — ospite del sindaco, avv. G. R. Rusca, spirava improvvisamente sabato, 1° novembre, S.E. Egidio Reale, in età di 70 anni. Fu giornalista, scrittore, profugo, Ministro e Ambasciatore d'Italia a Berna, giudice ed insegnante, Ambasciatore politico e di cultura.

— E' entrato in funzione in questi ultimi tempi il nuovo edificio dell'Osservatorio Ticinese della Centrale Meteorologica Svizzera. La nuova costruzione dell'Osservatorio Meteorologico ha la facciata rivolta a sud e si divide in piano semisotterraneo, piano rialzato, primo piano e termina con una vasta terrazza alla cui estremità occidentale si innalza una torre. Il piano per studi sulla fisica delle nubi, la stazione emittente, la camera oscura, un piccolo locale per apparecchi di semisotterraneo ospita gli impianti del riscaldamento centrale, l'officina di meccanica fine, due laboratori

registrazione e un locale di soggiorno; il piano rialzato cinque uffici, due laboratori ed un locale per istrumenti; il primo piano un grande locale per il servizio di previsione, un locale per le telescriventi e il facsimile, rivestito in modo che il rumore delle macchine sia attutito, quattro uffici per meteorologi, l'archivio e la biblioteca. La torre serve esclusivamente a misure della radiazione. Sulla terrazza della torre, sopra tavoli in marmo di Peccia, insensibili a qualunque scossa, sono esposti diversi apparecchi. Da ultimo si è pure costruito un doppio garage. La specola solare dell'Osservatorio Astronomico federale, che sorge nell'angolo sud-est del terreno, è una costruzione ad un sol piano che contiene vari uffici, un lungo coelostato e una torre sormontata da una cupola dove è installato un moderno rifrattore solare. Il terreno circostante, che una volta era un vigneto a terrazzi, è stato appianato e trasformato in un prato dove sono ora esposti diversi istrumenti che servono a ricerche meteorologiche.

LUGANO — Sabato, 29 novembre, alla presenza del consigliere federale Giuseppe Lepori, verrà ufficialmente inaugurata la trasmittente televisiva costruita nel giro d'un anno sulla vetta del San Salvatore. La partecipazione del Capo del Dip° delle Poste e Ferrovie alla cerimonia indica la grande importanza che riveste l'entrata in esercizio della nuova trasmittente, grazie alla quale finalmente anche il Sottoceneri potrà essere collegato con la televisione svizzera.

— Il Tiro Federale 1964 non avrà luogo a Lugano come era intenzione dei tiratori luganesi in quanto quest'ultimi avevano domandato di anticipare la manifestazione di un anno per evitare la coincidenza con l'Esposizione Federale. La richiesta è stata respinta.

— Fra i numerosi lasciti fatti dal compianto avv. Carlo Censi, già consigliere nazionale e sindaco di Lugano, rileviamo quelli fatti al Comune di Lugano: a) Parte del suo ronco a Lamone vitato a Chasselas per la produzione del vino bianco destinato ai ricevimenti; b) Al Museo Caccia — da Lui inaugurato quale presidente — l'opera di "Caino dopo il delitto" dello zio Pietro Censi morto a 24 anni. Opera da gittarsi in bronzo col contributo del testatore di Fr 3,000.

PARADISO — La sera di venerdì, 7 novembre avveniva sulla strada internazionale, nella zona della Forca di San Martino una paurosa caduta in massa di pietrame, improvvisamente staccatasi dalle falde della montagna. La caduta che ha sollevato paura in chi in quell'ora si trovava nelle prossimità, per il rumore e il rotolare violento dei massi sulla camionabile, è di oltre 30 quintali di materiale.

MALVAGLIA — La cronaca degli incidenti mortali sui cantieri idroelettrici di Valle di Blenio non è purtroppo conclusa. Alla già lunga corona si è infatti aggiunto quello registratosi lunedì, 10 novembre, alla finestra di adduzione del riale Dongia, alla diga di Malvaglia e del quale è rimasto vittima l'operaio Wilhelm Karnen, nato nel 1926, coniugato e padre di 2 bambini, cittadino austriaco. Il Karnen si trovava, con altri 3 compagni, nei pressi della finestra, quando in seguito al movimento di sassi verificatosi superiormente alla stessa, un grosso masso precipitava sul Karnen, investendolo e schiacciandolo, così che l'infelice rimaneva morto all'istante.

*Poncione di Vespero.*