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"SCHWEIZERBUND" (SWISS CLUB) "Gemütlicher Abend"

Whenever the world situation becomes "ungemütlich", the "Schweizerbund" promptly arranges a "Gemütlicher Abend", *pour changer les idées noires*. This "genial evening", which was attended by well over a hundred of our compatriots, was a great success, and went with a swing right from the beginning. To kindle the necessary "Stimmung" some of the early arrivals gathered around the bar in the homely "Bündnerstube", and judging by the noise which emanated from these quarters they seemed to have enjoyed their "lubrication".

Soon after 8 o'clock, Mr. A. Gandon and his accordionists started the proceedings with a lively march in order to summon the revellers from the bar to the dance hall. In this they succeeded only after some considerable delay. When the company was seated, the dinner, consisting of an excellent and generous "Bernerplatte", started, and was much enjoyed, and did credit to the chef of the "Schweizerbund". It, however, was served in relays and with considerable intervals, no doubt due to the Bernese part of the menu; as whatever is connected with that part of our country is usually deemed slow, but may I also mention "sure". It was explained to me that the long intervals in serving were principally due to a bottleneck in the kitchen quarters; there was, however, no delay in the uncorking of the necks of bottles which contained delicious vintages grown on the sunny slopes of our homeland.

During one of the intervals, Mr. V. Berti, the genial president of the "Schweizerbund", briefly welcomed the company, expressing pleasure at seeing such a numerous gathering.

In the meantime a three-piece dance band had taken over from Mr. Gandon, and before long, young and old whirled around the dance hall with unabated energy. There were many old and familiar faces present, whom one used to meet at the "Schweizerbund" in days gone by; some of these looked a little older and somewhat "rounder", but no less vivacious than in the past. When the *dessert* was served, Mr. F. Delaloye, a former president of the Club, gave a humorous address, in which he greeted our Swiss Consul, Mr. E. Ribbi, who had brought a large party from the Embassy, thanking him for the support he continuously gives to the Club, he also mentioned the presence of the editor of the "Swiss Observer", and Mrs. Stauffer, and many of the regular and consistent supporters, amongst them the family Jobin. In conclusion he thanked the stewards of the Club, M. and Mme. Vuistiner, for looking after the material wants of the diners so well.

Some time ago I made a rule to give up dancing, as I consider that "my dancing years are over", but as so many rules are made to be broken, this one was broken too, when a charming lady "hiked" me out of my seat and whirled me round the room at a bewildering speed!

A Swiss evening without yodelling is almost unthinkable, and when it was announced that Miss Maria Dubacher, a young lady from Uri, would give one or two yodel soli, pandemonium broke out. This young singer is not only attractive, but also has an equally attractive voice, and her performance was loudly cheered.

Once again the dance band lured the revellers to the dance floor, and dancing went on gaily until midnight, when the hour of departure struck, everyone having spent a really enjoyable evening full of gaiety and mirth. It was indeed a

"Gemütlicher Abend".

ST.

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR, 1960

The trains were so full that it would have been nice to think that all these people were wending their way to Westminster Central Hall, where they would certainly have been more comfortable than while watching the Lord Mayor's Show in pouring rain. But even on the premises we were not without competition; we had several enquirers at the door for a Cat Show and for a Yoga Show, and friendly relations were established with a Poppy Day Depot just outside. All the same it was gratifying that the suggestion of a bigger hall made in this paper two years ago had been adopted and all concerned certainly had more elbow room. Refreshments, too, could be taken in comfort, with the result that luncheons were sold out quite early, to the great disappointment of many compatriots who had been prevented by work or distance from turning up in time for a plate of Sauerkraut and Wienerli. However, nobody had to go away hungry, as full teas were served later in the afternoon, and a number of stalls were well stocked with foodstuffs.

As always, the specialities prepared by the Swiss housewives themselves with loving care, were sold out quickly — "Totenbeinli", "Birewegge", Eierzopf, and a variety of others differing in size and taste, but home-made jams and jellies, fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as tinned foods, were also in good demand. Even a full-sized Gruyere cheese stood temptingly in the background but — was it lack of transport or lack of funds? — could not find a new home and reluctantly consented to mutilation in manageable portions.

Was it a premeditated reversal of roles which put one of the pastors behind the soft toys stall containing a flock of snow-white lambs, after which he looked so well that at the end of the day there was not one left? It was no doubt equally fitting that tight-fisted bankers' wives should be in charge of ladies' clothes and sundry articles to keep the family warm, whereas the ladies from the Embassy tried to make our lives sweeter for us with chocolates and the like. The number of other articles offered for sale would be too great to be mentioned; there was certainly something for every desire and for every need, and it was a great pity that some of the outstanding bargains did not find a buyer, simply because with most tempting concessions in price the money just could not be raised. Games for all, songs and musical productions added to the entertainment of the visitors and the Swiss costumes of a number of ladies lent colour to the scene.

If the financial result has perhaps not reached the record of two years ago, it is nevertheless very welcome to the Church, whose coffers have become sadly depleted on account of extraordinary expenditure, and the Consiatoire is most grateful to all who helped in organizing the Sale and who on the day itself gave their support — on either side of the counters — to ensure its success. The social side of such occasions is without a doubt more valuable than the material aspect, and unites us all in the good cause which we try to serve. M.