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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has expressed to the Chilean Government its sympathy on the occasion of the earthquake disaster, and has made a donation to the Chilean Red Cross of 50,000.— francs.

* * *

The Premier of East Nigeria, Dr. M. J. Okpara, has paid a courtesy visit to the Swiss Government in Berne.

* * *

The Turkish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur F. K. Geokay, has informed the Swiss Government of the formation of the new Turkish Government. He has been told that the Federal Council has recognised the new Government.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 20.6 million passengers in the month of April 1960, or 3.7 million more than in April 1959. Receipts: 34 million francs (April 1959: 25.1 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.25 million tons, which is 240,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 46.6 million francs (April 1959: 39.5 million francs).

* * *

The electrification of the 3,639-mile network of the Swiss Federal Railways — which was started in 1906 and delayed by the two World Wars — was completed recently with the opening of the service of electrically driven trains on the 20-mile line linking Cadenazzo to Luino.

* * *

The two Federal Chambers (National and States Councils) assembled in Berne on 7th June for the summer session.

Cantonal

The Bienne tribunal, after a three-day sitting, has condemned a woman fortune-teller, who fraudulently robbed her client of 56,200.— francs, to three-and-a-half years' imprisonment and ordered her to pay 2,500.— francs costs. A private detective who was an accomplice of the fortune-teller was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment and ordered to pay 1,400.— francs costs.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Eduard Rothen, the newly elected "Stadtammann" of Grenchen, has been made an honorary citizen of the City of Genoa. (According to a resolution passed in 1933 by the Genoa authorities, each "Stadtammann" will become *ipso facto* an honorary citizen in gratitude for having given asylum in 1836 to the Italian patriot Mazzini.)

[A.T.S.]

The Administrative Council of Geneva has elected M. Fernand Cottier (Independent Christian Socialist) to the post of Mayor of the Town of Geneva for 1960/61. M. Thevenaz (Radical) was elected Vice-President of the Council.

[A.T.S.]

The "Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio" of Italy has bestowed honorary membership on Professor Dr. Reto Roedel, of the Commercial University St. Gall.

[A.T.S.]

An amount of 20,000.— francs in cash has been stolen from a warehouse in Lucerne.

[A.T.S.]

The Criminal Court of the Val de Joux has sentenced Marie-Louise Masson (29), for the murder of her three children and the attempted murder of her husband, to twenty years' imprisonment. Her brother-in-law, René Masson, and her lover, Henri Vincent, each received a sentence of thirteen years' imprisonment. All the condemned have to bear a part of the costs of the action.

[A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that no meetings will be held during

JULY and AUGUST.

They will be advised in due course of the resumption in September next.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Municipal Council of Lucerne has decided to name the promenade leading from the eastern end of the Trottlis to the Lido, the "General Guisan Quai".

* * * [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Caritas Association, Lucerne, has made a first payment of 20,000.—francs to the victims of the Chile earthquake disaster. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Willi Ochsner (36), electro-technician, and father of two children, lost his life whilst climbing the Männli (Kroenten district). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Commune of Rueun (Ct. Grisons) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Canon Christian Berther.

* * * [A.T.S.]

The "Veteranentag" of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein" took place at Solothurn. Fifty-three new veterans were presented with the bronze plaque given to members of fifty years' standing, amongst them National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, Central President of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein". [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Edwin Altwegg, for twenty-eight years "Inland" editor of the "Thurgauer Zeitung", has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Mr. Oscar Reck, chief editor of the "Neuen Winterthurer Tagblatt". [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Edmond Guinand has been elected President of the Government of the Canton of Neuchâtel for 1960/61, and M. Gaston Clottu, Vice-President.

* * * [A.T.S.]

Professor Jean Piager, ordinarius of Experimental Psychology at the University of Geneva, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Manchester. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Hungarian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Aladar Tamas, paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Government of the Canton Ticino in Bellinzona.

* * * [A.T.S.]

A thief entered the premises of the hotel school at Lausanne and decamped with 10,000.—francs in cash.

* * * [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Edwin Wieser, free lance journalist, and for many years editor of the paper "Sie & Er", in Zurich, at the age of 64.

Madame Marguerite Schulthess-Disque, widow of former Federal Councillor Edmund Schulthess, in Berne, aged 90.

Dr. Anton Bieler, since 1939 Professor of Chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 64.

Ernst Lauterburg, senior chief of the "Bunt- und Leinenweberei Lauterburg & Cie", Langnau i.E., and President of the Board of the "Emmenthaler-Blatt, A.G.", in Langnau, at the age of 82.

Professor Wilhelm Vischer, Professor of Systematic and Pharmaceutical Botany at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 61.

Professor François Pfaeffli, for many years head of the Dental Institute of the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 86.

Dr. jur. Walter Krell, for seventeen years a member of the Superior Court of the Canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Gensch-Trutmann, "Kantonaler Kriegskommissar", and member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz, at the age of 60.

Dr. med. Martin Ernst Naef, well-known neurologist, in Lucerne, aged 73.

Anton Guldinmann, eminent art historian, in Losterf, at the age of 57.



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Dr. jur. Heinrich Steinbrüchel-Bach, from 1916 to 1941 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich, and from 1942 to 1953 a member of the Appeal Court of the Canton of Zurich, in Kuesnacht, aged 87.

Professor Dr. Herbert Reiners, from 1925 to 1945 Professor of Art History at the University of Fribourg, in Ludwighafen.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

Brigadier Dr. med. Hans Meuli, of Nufenen (Ct. Grisons), since 1946 "Oberfeldarzt" of the Swiss army, has tendered his resignation for health reasons. He is succeeded by Brigadier Dr. med. Kaeser.

The Chief of the General Staff, Army-Corps Commander Jakob Annasohn, and Colonel Denereaz of the General Staff have paid an official visit to the Swedish army.

An army lorry of the Fus. Company III/29 in trying to avoid an oncoming vehicle fell over a slope on the road between Zimmerwald and Riggisberg. Fusilier Oscar Ramseyer (23), of Stattlen nr. Worb, was killed, and several of the other occupants were injured.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Otto Pfaendler (70), of St. Gall, President of the Landesring Party, and from 1939 to 1943 a member of the National Council, and founder of the first youth parliament. He was for ten years ski-officer of the 6th and 7th divisions with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Paul Blancpain (90), of Fribourg, industrialist, son of the founder of the brewery concern "Cardinal" Fribourg.

Hermann Charles Honegger (70), of Hombrechtikon (Zurich), industrialist and philanthropist. In 1942, whilst residing in the United States, he founded the "Pestalozzi Foundation of America".

[A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The "Schulpflege" Lenzburg has received an anonymous donation of 10,000.— francs towards the cost of a "Ferienkoloniehaus".

The late Johann Pfeiffer, "Gastwirt" in Uster, has left 50,000.— francs to his home commune, Mollis (Glarus).

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Doswald-Banz of Wohlen (Aargau), Mr. and Mrs. C. Hutterli-Roth of Weinfelden, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gissler-Anex of Aigle, Mr. and Mrs. J. Zeller-Luchsinger of Murg (St. Gall), Mr. and Mrs. R. Schwarzer-Kuriger of Rapperswil, Mr. and Mrs. Grob-Meier of Schwellbrunn (Appenzell A.-Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. J. Maibach-Eggimann of Schlosswil (Berne).

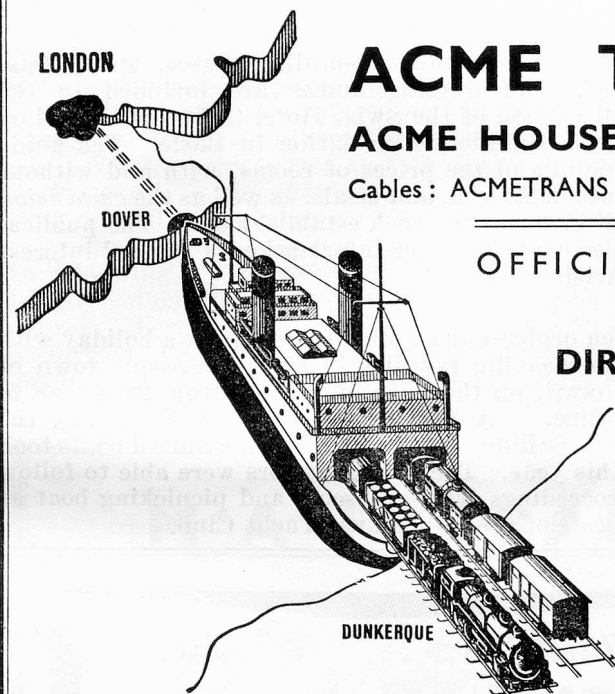
[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Heinz von Daeniken (30), merchant, of Basle, collided with a lorry near Olten. The car driver received fatal injuries and his passenger was taken to hospital suffering from serious injuries.

* * *

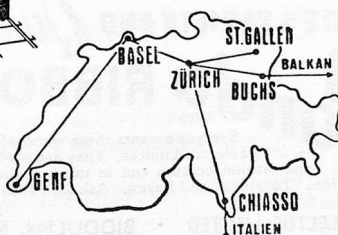
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Two persons were killed and five seriously injured when three motor-cars collided on the road between Serrières and Neuchâtel. Those killed were Charles Bourquin (31), of St. Blaise, and Mlle. Helene Baguaeni (31), of St. Blaise.

A motor-car and delivery van were involved in a collision at the Frauenfelderstrasse in Oberwinterthur. Mr. Tranquillo Mastai (69), of Oberwinterthur, the driver of the delivery van, was killed, and four persons were injured.

Two motor-cars collided in the neighbourhood of Bioux (Val de Joux). The driver of one of the cars, Robert Rossel (39), of Geneva, was killed; his son Yves, and the driver of the other car, received injuries and were taken to hospital.

Jean-Pierre Ponterio (29), of Lausanne, driving a motor-cycle, collided with a lorry and received fatal injuries. Daniel Chavan, of Lausanne, driving a motor-cycle crashed into a tram-car in Lausanne; he later died from his injuries.

Johann Gerber (51), a farmer, of Mümliswil, was run over by a motor-cycle between Mümliswil and Ramiswil. He was taken to hospital, where he died later.

As a result of a collision between two motor-cars and a lorry at the Seestrasse in Oberrieden (Zurich), two persons were killed. They were Richard Endress (77), a former bank manager, of Pfäeffikon (Schwyz), and his wife. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

Switzerland exported in April 1960 3,362,200 watches, to the value of 95,300,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of "New Berne" in North Carolina (U.S.A.) has recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of its foundation. The town, which numbers 30,000 inhabitants, was founded in 1710 by Christoph von Graffenried.

Dr. E. Freimüller, Mayor of the Town of Berne, has attended the celebration, and presented a stained-glass window and an illuminated address on behalf of the authorities and the population of Berne. M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, had sent a special message. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At a cost of 1.4 million francs, an artificial ice-rink and a larger golf-course are to be built at Davos. The ice-rink will have a grandstand and will be open to all visitors during the summer season.

* * *

After a long absence from the scene, horse cabs can once more be seen on the lake promenade at Locarno. Locarno has also opened new tennis courts

and is organising an international tournament from 16th to 19th June.

A "floating hotel" called "Europa" is to be put into service on the Rhine and will enable tourists to travel up and down the river in luxury. The "Europa" will cover the distance from Rotterdam to Basle in five-and-a-half days and do the homeward journey in three-and-a-half days.

* * *

Switzerland, the country with most newspapers, has 406 dailies, according to the latest figures. Of these, 282 are published in German, 105 in French, and 12 in Italian. Half the papers have a circulation between 2,000 and 10,000.

* * *

Tours in the latest Swiss postal motor coaches through Switzerland and frontier regions are run every week from 13th June to 12th September by the motor department of the Swiss Federal Posts and Telegraphs. Starting and ending in Basle, the tours take exactly a week, viz., from Monday morning till Sunday evening. In addition to such holiday centres as Zurich, Lucerne, St. Moritz, Locarno, Interlaken, Montreux and Berne, a number of famous Alpine passes, such as the Klausen, Julier, Maloja, Simplon, Grimsel and Pillon, are included in the itinerary. The route also passes through Liechtenstein and parts of the lake district of Northern Italy.

* * *

The latest motel in Switzerland, at Neuhaus, two kilometres west of Interlaken, is nearing completion. It will have accommodation for eighty visitors. The location is particularly attractive, being by the shores of Lake Thun, close to the famous sailing and water skiing school of Neuhaus Interlaken.

* * *

Some 2,300 hotels, boarding-houses, spa hotels, sanatoria and nursing homes are included in the 1960/61 edition of the Swiss Hotel Guide, published by the Swiss Hoteliers Association in Basle. The guide gives details of the prices of rooms, with and without a private bathroom, and meals, as well as the *en pension* and all-in terms for each establishment. The publication also contains other information of general interest to tourists.

* * *

Ten orphans from Manchester spent a holiday with English-speaking families in the picturesque town of Rapperswil, on the Lake of Zurich, from 28th May to 10th June. A highlight of their holiday was the Whitsun Sailing Regatta in which a hundred boats took part this year. The young visitors were able to follow the proceedings from an escort and picnicking boat as the guests of the Rapperswil Yacht Club.



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* * *

The Little Scheidegg, at the top of the pass between Grindelwald and Wengen, is situated immediately at the foot of the giant iced peaks of the Eiger, the Moench and the Jungfrau. One of its hotel's earliest guests was Lord Byron. Since then, it has been visited by Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and, during the last decades, by countless personalities from various countries. From the Scheidegg the highest cogwheel railway in the world, the Jungfrau Railway, leads up to the very source of Europe's longest ice-stream, the Aletsch Glacier, 11,480 feet above sea level.

* * *

In 1960 Wengen will be celebrating the centenary of its existence as a holiday resort. The festivities, on 23rd and 24th July, will coincide with the traditional "Village Sunday". Situated on the slopes which overlook the wonderfully picturesque valley of Lauterbrunnen, Wengen early became the largest holiday resort in the Bernese Oberland, and it still enjoys world-wide fame to-day. The most beautiful viewpoints in the region are accessible from Wengen, by well-kept, easy paths, and the Wengernalp and Jungfrau Railways offer tourists and alpinists no end of delights. Thanks to the construction of an aerial cableway from Wengen to the Maennlichen, visitors reach the very centre of the Jungfrau region in a few minutes and can enjoy the unique panorama of the lofty Alpine peaks, the soft hill-country around Lake Thun, even the mountains of Central Switzerland. It goes without saying that Wengen has all the amenities pertaining to a large holiday resort. Besides an electrically heated swimming-pool, Wengen has modern tennis courts. Two international tennis competitions will take place, from 11th to 17th July and from 26th to 31st July. On 21st August a Grand Costume Festival will be organised on the Maennlichen, and will comprise popular dancing, flag-throwing and Alpine horn-blowing. The traditional summer concerts will be given during July and August in the fine village church. Lovers of classical music will hear works performed by famous artists. Wengen also has numerous bars and dance-halls, and can truly claim to have "something for every taste".

A new 9-hole golf course — later to be extended to 18 holes — is being constructed in the Bernese Oberland. It should be ready for the summer season in 1961. Easily accessible in the Saanenwald above Saanenmöser, the course can be used not only by visitors to the latter resort but also by those from the neighbouring villages of Gstaad, Saanen and Schönried.

* * *

The Loetschberg Railway has financed the construction of one of the most attractive Alpine paths in Switzerland. The location is well known through the picture postcard showing a famous "Blue Arrow" rail car on its journey from the southern end of the Loetschberg Tunnel down to Brig. The walks from Hohtenn to Ausserberg and from there via Eggerberg to Lalden take $3\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours respectively. Special attractions, apart from the magnificent view of the Rhone Valley, are the famous artificial brooks (Bisse) for irrigating the sun-scorched mountain slopes, chalets, vineyards, small cornfields at 3,000 feet above sea level, and the fauna of the romantic Aletsch/Bietschhorn district.

* * *

Interlaken, the world-famous tourist centre situated 1,863 feet above sea level between Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, even as far back as the Napoleonic era, was favoured by the nobility of the time, especially by Mme. de Stael. Its Kursaal is over a hundred years old and provides all the amenities to be expected in an important holiday centre. The following events should be noted: 20th June: opening of an 80-bed motel on Lake Thun, 1 mile from Interlaken, near the Sailing and Water Ski-ing School of Neuhaus. 28th/29th June: June Symphony Concert by the Munich Philharmony Society, Conductor: Fritz Rieger. 14th July — 11th September: Fifteenth Season of Schiller's "William Tell", performed at the Rugenpark, Interlaken. 20th/21st August: Horse Show. 3rd — 18th September: Gastronomic Fortnight (traditional culinary specialities are served in a number of chosen hotels). Programme/Menu upon request.

* * *

The General Programme of the Lucerne International Musical Festival has just been published. There are to be nine symphony concerts, an extra concert and a concert with choir and orchestra between 13th August and 8th September. Two concerts by the Festival Strings Lucerne, two Mozart serenades in front of the Lion Memorial, a serenade for wind

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instruments, two organ recitals, three lieder recitals, two sonata recitals, a quartet recital, a piano recital and a harp recital complete the programme. Apart from the Swiss Festival Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra of England, the NHK Symphony Orchestra of Radio Tokio can also be heard for the first time. The programme is published in German, French, Italian and English, and can be obtained from the agencies of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

* * *

For more than a hundred years Mürren has been a noted resort set amidst mountains that are still the haunts of eagles, chamois and marmots, and never yet has a motor-car disturbed its peace. In this pedestrians' paradise, far removed from the nerve-racking roar of the cities, the clip-clop of horses' hooves, the soft pit-pat of a ball being knocked to and fro on the nearest tennis court, the tinkle of cowbells and the murmur of the mountain streams make soothing music for the ear. Guides conduct visitors on walks through shady valleys or assault the all-commanding peaks of the Jungfrau region. Amateur photographers garner rich booty for their albums, botanists make new discoveries, and every day the modern craving for rest and relaxation is more richly satisfied. On 12th August 1960, the first successful flight across the Alps from Mürren to Turin, which took place fifty years ago, will be commemorated by a jubilee balloon ascent. Departure: Mürren; Destination: Wherever the wind blows!

* * *

The Lake of Thun is bordered to the south-east by the eternal snow regions of the Bernese Alps, at the foot of the Eiger, Moench and the Jungfrau peaks. The modern tourist resort of Interlaken, built 150 years ago, is situated at the eastern end of the lake, and at its western end there is the medieval town of Thun, with its picturesque historic buildings and quaint narrow streets. Along the shores of the lake, ten holiday resorts can accommodate between them 2,000 visitors. Well-kept bathing beaches alternate with parks on the water's edge. At Spiez, Hilterfingen and Neuhaus, the Swiss Sailing School of the Lake of Thun gives instruction to about 400 pupils every year from Easter onwards. On 4th June the "Pirates Sailing Championships" began at Hilterfingen, while the Water-Skiing School of Lake Thun, at Gunten, is organising Guests' Competitions. From 18th June to 10th September Lake Thun sees the reintroduction of the popular evening steamer round trips, with music

and dancing on board. In the courtyard of the Castle of Spiez, the Berne Chamber Orchestra will give a concert on 25th July, and at the beginning of September, in the Early Romanesque church, a Biblical play will be performed for three weeks on each successive Saturday and Sunday evening. The Grand Nautical Night Fete will take place at Thun on 6th August, and from 22nd to 29th August the 18th Federal "Hornuss" Festival, an interesting, traditional folklore event. The cyclist "Tour of Switzerland" passed through Thun on 20th June. The city will hold exhibitions of its works of art from 3rd July to 14th August and from 25th September to 23rd October. The Kursaal of Thun (boule, dancing, bar) is open from 30th April to 31st October. Also open to visitors are the historic Castles of Thun, Spiez and Oberhofen, containing valuable collections of ancient paintings, weapons, antique furniture and apartments. To conclude the programme of Summer Events 1960, the "Chaesteilet", or distribution of cheese, will take place in the Justis Valley about the middle of September.

SWISSAIR APPOINTMENT.

Mr. Geoffrey Michael Dee has been appointed Swissair's Superintendent, Inclusive Tours, Charters and Special Events, at the airline's London offices.

Previously Mr. Dee was for thirteen years in the Air Travel Department at the Head Office of Thos. Cook & Son; for the past six years as Continental Controller, and before that in charge of the overseas section. He has travelled extensively in Europe and to North Africa. He is 37, and is married.

SWISSAIR STARTS SERVICE TO WARSAW.

Warsaw is included in Swissair's network from 2nd June with the start of twice-weekly non-stop services between Zurich and the Polish capital. Flights leave Zurich on Thursday and Saturday afternoons and Warsaw on Friday morning and Saturday evening.

The service is operated with Convair Metropolitans; flying time between the two cities is 3 hours 10 minutes. The new Warsaw services connect in Zurich with flights from and to the United Kingdom.

Other East European destinations served by Swissair are Prague and Belgrade. A second weekly flight to Belgrade will operate on Tuesdays from 26th July, in addition to the present Wednesday departure.

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