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# The Swiss Observer

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## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Mr. CHAPUIS!

by

A. STAUFFER

Charles L. Chapuis, of "Ya Mieux", 3 Broomhills Road, West Mersea, Essex, affectionately known to his large circle of friends as "Carlo", is celebrating his 80th birthday on the 24th of this month, and we are sending him our most sincere congratulations on reaching the age of four score.

Five years ago it was the writer's pleasure to wish him — on the occasion of his 75th birthday — "many happy returns of the day", and expressing the hope that he might be with us for many more years to come. This hope and wish has fortunately been answered, and to-day he is still with us.



On growing older — as alas — we all do, and looking back on the past, many memories of happy hours spent in the company of good friends are recalled, and amongst these memories which will be always treasured by the writer, are nearly fifty years of unbroken friendship with the octogenarian.

Charles L. Chapuis was born at Lausanne on 24th September 1881, and on becoming an orphan at the early age of ten, he arrived in London, together with his late elder brother Louis, in December 1891; he can thus look back on seventy years of residence in this country.

He continued his schooling in London until the age of fourteen when he commenced his business career as a shop boy in his uncle's firm, H. Comoy, the pioneer of the Briar Pipe industry in England, which in the course of years became the world famed concern of H. Comoy & Co. Ltd. By sheer hard work and tenacity he became

a Director many years ago of the firm of which his late brother Louis was the Chairman and Managing Director.

In spite of heavy business responsibilities, Carlo Chapuis found time to take a very active part in the Swiss Colony's affairs. He served on numerous committees where his sagacity, fair play and sound views were much appreciated. In 1911, our friend joined the City Swiss Club of which Society he became President in 1930. Perhaps the major part of his manifold activities was devoted to the Swiss Mercantile Society, the London section of the "Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Verein" of which he became a member in 1908, and in which Society he held the office of President of the Entertainment Committee for eleven years. For fifteen years he was also a member of the Council and until 1955 he sat on the Advisory Board of the Employment Department of the Society, since discontinued. For the great services he had rendered, he was in 1918, made an Honorary Member a distinction which he richly deserved.

Mr. Chapuis is an ardent Freemason, and Past Master of the Helvetica Lodge, he is also a founder member of the Rotary Club of Finsbury.

But not only has he given his service freely to the Swiss community, but also to the country which has given him hospitality for so long. He became a Publicity Officer of the National Savings Movement, a member of the Air Training Corps Committee, and the Advisory Board of Ministry of Labour. It is also worth mentioning that Mr. Chapuis was awarded the British Red Cross Medal after the First World War.

Although Carlo spent practically all his life away from his native country, he has remained faithful to the soil from whence he came, he has remained to this day an ardent lover of Switzerland, and the canton of Vaud.

In 1917, our friend married, and the writer had the privilege of attending his wedding, representing the Swiss Mercantile Society, of which he was then President. It is an open secret that the union with Germaine — a compatriot of ours — has proved a most happy one. Her charm and cheerfulness have endeared her to everyone, and she has been an unfailing help to him in all his undertakings.

On his coming 80th birthday our Carlo can look back on a successful and fruitful life. May a kind Providence grant him many years by the side of his life's partner, and in the midst of his many friends, who had enjoyed his company for so long.