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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur Gaston Jaccard, formerly Swiss Ambassador to Belgium, has been appointed to head a section of the Swiss Embassy representing United States interests in Cuba, following the diplomatic break between Washington and Havana.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed M. Jacques Mollet, Counsellor of Legation, and Consul-General at Damascus, to the post of head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea, in succession to M. Rudolf Hartmann.

\* \* \*

Monsieur J. Dudley Lawrence has presented his credentials as Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to Monsieur F. T. Wahlen, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, head of the Political Department, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has addressed a congratulatory message to Mr. John Kennedy, on his taking over the American Presidency.

\* \* \*

**Cantonal** A sixteen-year-old student, on leaving his railway carriage before the train had stopped at the station of Schwyz, fell between two carriages and was killed. He was Peter Ceberg, of Rickenbach nr. Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Walter Raissig, Central Secretary of the "Hauseigentümer Verband", is entering the National Council, in succession to the late Mr. F. Buechi. The new National Councillor was born in 1910 and hails from Bolligen (Ct. Berne). He is residing in Langnau a. Albis. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Zurich Government has acquired large grounds for the erection of new Barracks in the Reppisch Valley between Birmensdorf and Urdorf at a cost of 7,500,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

At the end of 1961 the population of the town of Zurich numbered 439,979. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the non-alcoholic restaurant "Side-Hus" in the Seidengasse Zurich caused damage estimated to amount to 30,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr.med. Hans Ulrich Buff, chief surgeon at the "Bürgerspital" Solothurn, has been elected Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich, and Director of the surgical clinic of the cantonal hospital Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Frau Susanna Haegni-Pletscher, of Stäfa (Zurich), has celebrated her 101st birthday; she is the mother of seven children. [A.T.S.]

A burglar entered the office of the Victoria Hospital in Berne; he forced open the safe and decamped with its contents to the value of 30,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Professor Walter Baumgartner, chief surgeon at the hospital in Interlaken, and his son, Martin, lost their lives in an avalanche disaster at the Wistaett-horn, between Lenk and Zweisimmen. Two other sons of Professor Baumgartner were seriously injured and were taken to the Interlaken hospital. [A.T.S.]

Fräulein Magdalena Seiler has celebrated her 103rd birthday, at the district hospital in Interlaken. [A.T.S.]

M. Robert Mermoud, notary, has been elected Mayor of the town of Grandson. He belongs to the Radical Party. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Schneider (67) has celebrated his 40th jubilee in the service of the Government of the canton of Berne. He has occupied the post of chancellor since 1928. [A.T.S.]

In the canton of Lucerne, 1,874 traffic accidents occurred during the year 1960. 1,510 persons were injured, 162 fatally. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Max Obrecht (66) and Mr. Otto Stampfli (64) have announced their decision to retire from the Government of the canton of Solothurn.

Mr. Obrecht is a member of the Conservative Party. He was elected a member of the cantonal government in 1931. Obrecht occupied the post of "Landammann" six times.

Mr. Otto Stampfli (Radical) entered the cantonal government in 1936. He held the post of "Landammann" five times. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the year 1960, 272 road accidents have been reported in the territory of the town of Schaffhausen. 155 persons received injuries and 7 persons were killed. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Georg Frei, of Hemberg (Toggenburg), has celebrated his 102nd birthday. He is the father of 12 children (seven sons and five daughters). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Hanspeter Bertschin (20), of Zurich, lost his life on the bobsleigh run at St. Moritz, when his bobsleigh overturned at great speed. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the year 1960, 950 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Thurgau. 910 persons were injured and 45 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Diavolezza air-lift, after only four years' activity, recently carried its millionth passenger. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On 1st January 1961 the population of the town of Lausanne numbered 126,906, or 3,578 more than on 1st January 1960. (11,546 citizens of Lausanne, 52,195 citizens of Vaudois communes, 44,929 citizens belonging to other cantons, and 18,236 foreigners.) [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Comité directeur de l'exposition nationale Suisse de 1964" has nominated Mr. Frederic Paux (47) to the post of general secretary of the exhibition. M. Michel Rochaix (48), Director of the "Potasses, S.A." Berne, has been elected agricultural commissioner, and Mr. Franz Amrhein (33) will be in charge of the constructions of the exhibition. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the twelve months of 1960, 430,000 kilogrammes of fish were caught in the lake of Neuchâtel. This is 100,000 kgs. fewer than the year before. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A shop window of a jewellery establishment in the L'Ile quarter of Geneva was smashed, and goods valued at 100,000.—francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Charles Schaefer (36), of Geneva, has been elected general secretary of the "l'hospice général" of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

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### DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jules Monney, since 1930 director of the "Collège de Saint Maurice", in Saint Maurice, at the age of 65.

Daniel Kessler, a former teacher of gymnastics, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town, in Basle, aged 75.

Paul Ruffy, head of the Swiss Television Service, in Zurich, at the age of 46.

Pierre Bidal, teacher of mathematics at the "Ecole polytechnique" of the University of Lausanne, at Château d'Oex, aged 46.

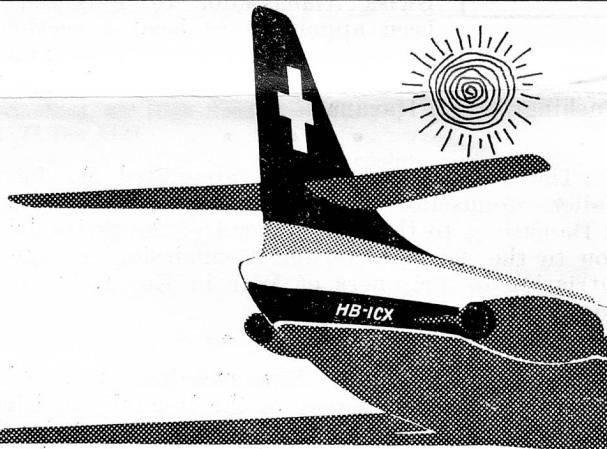
Traugott Buechi, from 1951 until his death a member of the National Council, in Zurich, at the age of 54.

Fritz Dobler, director of the firm "J. R. Geigy, A.G." Basle, in Basle, age 66.

Edouard Louis, "Gerant du domaine viticole et des caves de la ville de Berne", at La Neuville, owing to a motoring accident, at the age of 54.

Colonel Max Aebi, in Berne, aged 66. During the last war the deceased was in command of the 28th Battalion and later of the 14th Mountain Infantry Regiment.

W. H. Michel, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Paris, in Geneva, at the age of 53.



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Henry Schmid, Honorary Consul-General at Tegucigalpa (Honduras), at the age of 69, in Tegucigalpa. The deceased had represented various Swiss commercial firms in Honduras.

Carlo Benzoni, celebrated mycologist, in Chiasso, age 84.

Max Eichenberger, from 1939 until his death art critic of the paper "Die Tat", in Zurich, at the age of 59.

Giovanni Battista Rusca, Mayor of the town of Locarno, and from 1927 to 1931, 1935 to 1943, and 1947 to 1955 a member of the National Council, in Locarno, age 79.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Professor Fritz Jaeger (80), of Brugg, from 1928 to 1947 Professor of Geography at the University of Basle.

A. Clavel (80), of Basle, a leading personality in the Basle chemical industry.

Paul Balmer (80), of Geneva, a former member of the Government of the canton of Geneva.

Mgr. Christianus Caminada (85), since 1941 Bishop of Chur.

Professor M. Zeller (70), of Zurich, Professor of Photogrammetrie at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Raphael Cottier (70), of Berne, for 10 years "Directeur du Bureau International des Chemins de Fer".

Paul-Emile Cherbiliez (70), of Geneva, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Geneva.

[A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

The late Mlle. Clara Ganz, of Dornach, has left 10,000.— francs to various charitable institutions.

Frau Maria Christen-Faesch, of Olten, has left her valuable collection of china to the Historical Museum, Olten.

Mr. T. A. Ruepp, manufacturer in Sarmenstorf (Ct. Aargau) — on the occasion of his 75th birthday — has donated an estate valued at 100,000.— francs to the commune.

Fräulein Elsa Reinmann, who died in April 1960, has left 30,000.— francs each to the blind and to the orphaned of the canton of Aargau.

Mr. Emile Dreyfus, the well-known Basle philanthropist, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, has made a donation of 200,000.— francs to the "Société d'utilité publique" of Basle.

[A.T.S.]

#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Mr. Henri Coppex (27), caretaker at a school in Cointrin, was killed when his car collided with a coach. His wife received serious injuries and was taken to the cantonal hospital.

On the road between Lüterkofen and Lohn, a lorry crashed into a motor-cycle. The driver of the motorcycle, Ernest Sieber (34), of Ichterswil, received fatal injuries.

Two persons were killed and two injured when a motor-car, on the road between Bleienbach and Langenthal, collided with a lorry. Those killed were M. Dennler (63), porcelain painter, and Mrs. E. Ruch-Kilchenmann (40), both of Langenthal.

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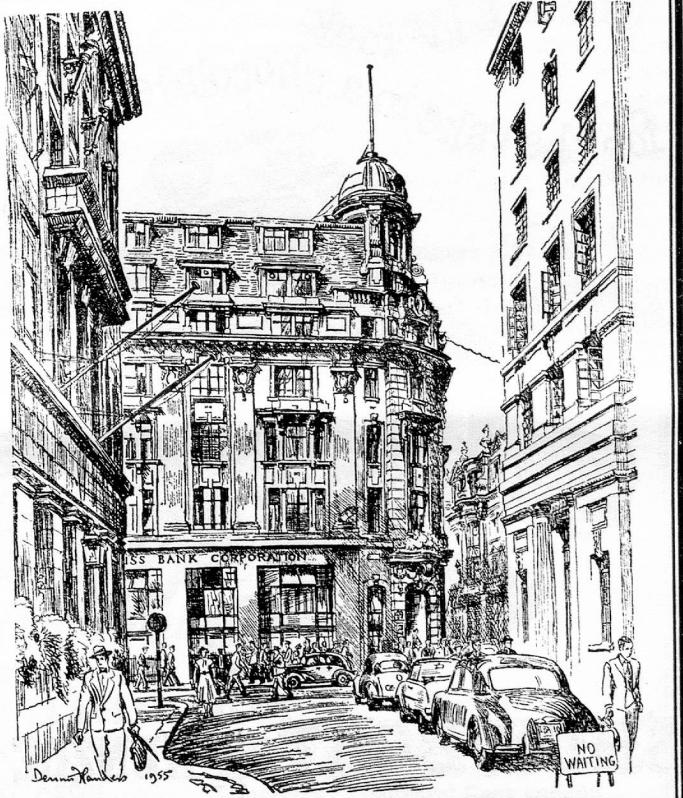
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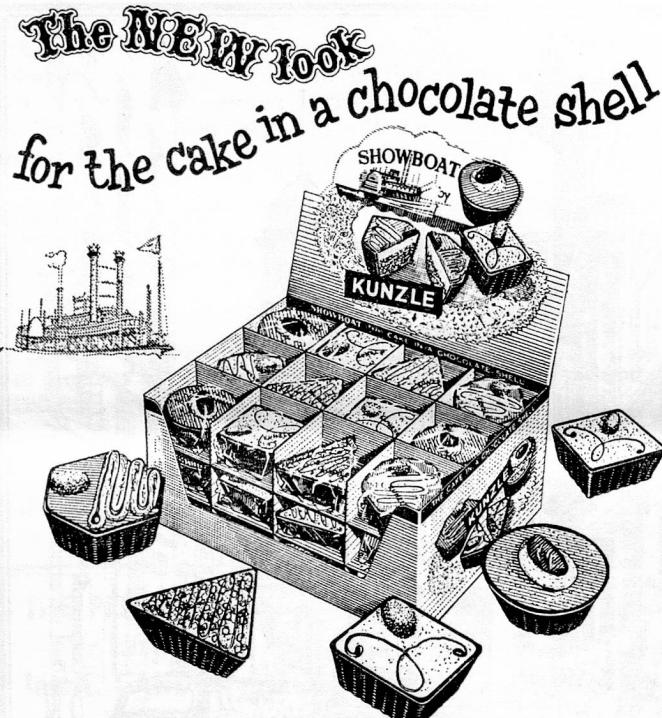
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Mr. Friedolin Stengel (63), of Bienné, was killed when his car collided, in dense fog, with another car on the road between Bienné and Berne; his wife and three other persons received serious injuries.

[A.T.S.]

### VARIOUS

The King and Queen of Thailand and their suite numbering forty persons have left Switzerland after a prolonged stay. They were seen off at the Cointrin airport, on behalf of the Federal authorities, by Minister R. Aman, *chef du protocol*. The Geneva Government was represented by M. Edouard Chamay, President of the cantonal government.

\* \* \*

The American Ambassador in Berne, Mr. Henry J. Taylor, has tendered his resignation to the new American President. He was accredited to the Swiss Confederation in 1957, in succession to Miss Francis Willis. He intends leaving Berne next month.

[A.T.S.]

### BLAISE CENDRARS WILL ASTOUND US NO MORE

Blaise Cendrars, 73, novelist, poet, movie scenario writer and world traveller, died in Paris after a long illness.

The restless life of M. Cendrars, known as the "intellectual vagabond", could well be summed up by the title of one of his best-known works, "Bourlinguer", which means to knock about the world.

He was awarded recently the literary Grand Prix of the City of Paris for his collected works.

Born Frédéric Sauser-Hall at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, he left his Scots mother and his Swiss father when he was 15 for the first of many trips around the world.

Before volunteering in the French Foreign Legion in 1914, M. Cendrars travelled in China, Russia, Britain and the United States. He supported himself by working as a farm hand, a beekeeper, a dish-washer and a music-hall entertainer.

M. Cendrars lost his right arm in the war in 1915. From 1917 until 1924 he specialized in movie work. Paris and New York were his headquarters between the two wars, and he travelled extensively in North and South America and Asia.

He was a friend and contemporary of such poets as Max Jacob, Jean Cocteau and Guillaume Apollinaire and of such artists as Fernand Léger, Chagall and Soutine. He was also a friend of American writer Henry Miller.

M. Cendrars's work was influenced by jazz, cubism and the movies, and he evolved a style which bordered on both poetry and newspaper reporting.

The first of his 30-odd works, "The Legend of Novgorod", was published in Moscow in 1909. His other works included "Gold", "Transsiberian Prose", "Easter in New York", "The ABC of Cinema", "Kodak", "Bourlinguer", and "Too Much, Too Much".

In World War II he served in the British Army in France as a captain until the collapse in June, 1940.

A Commander of the Legion of Honor, M. Cendrars is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.