

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1961)

Heft: 1381

Rubrik: News at random

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY P. HOFSTETTER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 47. No. 1381.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17th, 1961.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Iraqi Government has invited Mr. Walter J. Amman, contributor to Swiss television, to organize television in their country.

The first twelve of the hundred South African "Centurion" tanks bought by the Swiss Government have arrived in Basle.

According to the latest statistics published in Berne, there are now 1,070,452 radio listeners and 135,028 televiewers in Switzerland.

Mr. Pierre Francois Bruegger, at present Swiss Minister to Roumania, will change places with our Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Emile Bisang.

M. Max Petitpierre, head of the Swiss political department, has announced that he intends to resign on 30th June. M. Petitpierre has been in the Swiss Government since 1945, and has been three times President of the Confederation.

Cantonal

In Schaffhausen last summer a traffic accident caused a considerable stir when former teacher and dean of the canton, J. Pfund, was knocked down and killed by a car after just having celebrated his 100th anniversary. The driver has now been convicted of manslaughter — but given only a suspended prison sentence of fifteen days !!

An earthquake has been reported in the centre of Grisons. It was felt particularly in the area around Davos.

The Geneva authorities have finally rejected the French proposal of an international gambling casino for the bordering town of Annemasse.

Under the patronage of the Anglo-Swiss Society, Lord Euston has recently given a lecture in Zurich on the protection and maintenance of England's historical buildings.

A fire has entirely destroyed the Hotel Riffelalp in the Zermatt region. Opened in 1884, the Riffelalp Hotel, which faced the Matterhorn, was well known among British Climbers.

The Canton de Vaud celebrates this year the 450th anniversary of reformer Pierre Viret's birth. Several events and attractions are being organized for the occasion.

Until 16th April there is a spectacular exhibition in progress, at Zurich's Art Museum, devoted to "Five Thousand Years of Egyptian Art".

Students of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales at St. Gallen are protesting against the Swiss sports association's decision to send a delegation to the international students games in Sofia this summer and to the organisation of the 1961-62 winter games in Switzerland where strong Communist participation is expected.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL DINNER

on Tuesday, 21st March, 1961,
at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club)
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Guests of Honour
H.E. the Swiss Ambassador
and Madame Daeniker

6.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting
8 p.m. Dinner (dress informal)

Members wishing to take part at the dinner are requested to notify the Management, "Schweizerbund" (M. & Mme. Vuistiner), by letter reaching the Club not later than Saturday, 18th March.

An attack was made on the Spanish Consulate in Geneva, where three men broke windows and threw explosives inside. Nobody was hurt, and fortunately firemen were quickly on the scene to prevent extensive damage.

* * *

Muerren, the famous winter sports resort near Interlaken, has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary as ski and holiday centre. Present at the celebration were Sir Arnold Lunn and Lord Montgomery.

* * *

One may remember that some time ago naughty Basel students painted the public baths of "Pfalz" on the Rhine, all in yellow. The "Pfalz" is well known for its shocking ugliness. Now an official commission has expressed the view that the baths should be demolished!

* * *

Luzern's "Kunstmuseum" has organized an exhibition devoted to the work of Nidwaldener artist Anton Flueler, who died last October.

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Professor Marc Amsler, teacher of ophthalmology at Zurich University, who has just celebrated his 70th birthday.

* * *

National Councillor Charles Dellberg, Dean of the Federal Chambers and the Valais Grand Council, has just celebrated his 75th birthday, in Sierre.

* * *

DEATHS

Mr. Edmond Appia, former conductor of the Radio-Geneve Orchestra, died recently in Geneva at the age of 67.

* * *

VARIOUS

Two famous film stars, Audrey Hepburn and Sofia Loren, recently arrived in Switzerland to take a few weeks' rest at Buergenstock.

* * *

Skiers addicted to spring ski-ing under a tanning sun will find ideal snow conditions at and near a great number of Swiss winter sports centres throughout March, April and parts of May. In addition to such well-known spring skiers' Meccas as Zermatt, St. Moritz, Pontresina and Kleine Scheidegg, there are many other resorts which will feature guided spring-ski-ing excursions and high-Alpine jaunts, for instance Engelberg, Davos, Klosters, Arosa, Flims, Adelboden, Kandersteg, Wengen, Mürren, Gstaad, Grindelwald, Saas-Fee, Villars and Leysin.

* * *

A polar-snow-tractor towing service for skiers will continue to operate until the end of April from the Schwarzsee above Zermatt over the foot of the Matterhorn to the 11,000-foot-high Theodul Pass. Skiers are

taken in tow by caterpillar tractors and hoisted uphill along a four-mile-long trail. A fascinating new ski-ing area has been opened up by the towing service.

* * *

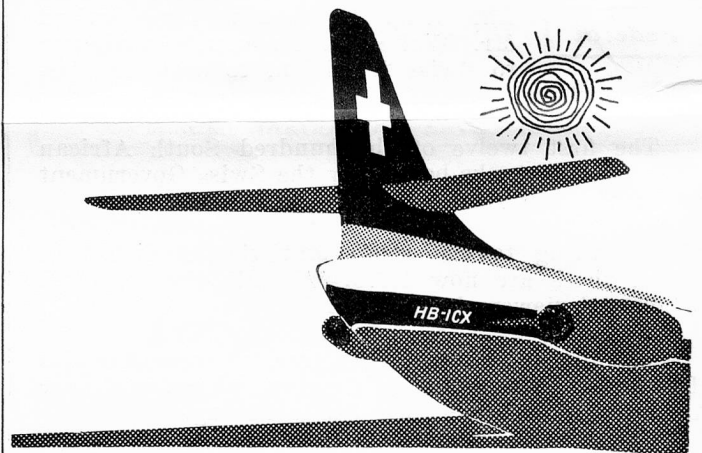
The tourist association of Flims, in the Canton of Grisons, is advertising the forthcoming summer season through a new colourful poster starring two local celebrities — the smiling sun of Flims and a tiny row-boat on Lake Cauma. Twenty-five miles of carefully maintained walking trails are among the summer attractions of the resort.

* * *

The road tunnel underneath the Great St. Bernard Pass is likely to be opened to traffic by 1st September, 1962, it has been announced officially. This is about twelve months later than originally planned.

* * *

90,000 passenger cars, fresh from the factory, were added to Switzerland's motor-car park last year. On 30th September 865,000 licensed motor-vehicles were in operation, i.e., 73,000 more than a year before. Among the most heavily motorized cantons are Geneva — with one motor-vehicle for every third inhabitant — and Basel Country, Basel City, Vaud, Ticino and Zurich.



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