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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

National Day Celebration

Year after year we look forward to the First of August which to all us Swiss is not just a date, a time for merrymaking or change from our daily routine, but much more: It is the birthday of our country, and we all, old and young alike, feel deep inside us a great sense of thankfulness for our ancestors of long ago who with their sacrifices made it possible, also thanks to a kind providence which is protecting our land and our family. We pray and hope that by our daily hard work, by our helpfulness and understanding, we might deserve and keep the respect and friendship of those surrounding us.

As in the past few years, we met again at the Cotton's Hotel near Knutsford, where we encountered the usual friendliness and efficiency from management and staff. We felt quite at home, and such a meeting in such a place has become almost a tradition with us. It was an inspiring gathering in number and quality, compatriots and friends reaching us from all parts, enriched by the welcome attendance of the usual large contingent from Yorkshire, lead by our Vice-President Dr. Obrist. All age groups were well represented, mainly the younger generation.

We enjoyed our usual drinks at the Hotel Bar where we prepared ourselves properly for what was to follow and eventually we took possession of our tables in rooms richly and tastefully decorated. National flags and lanterns were well represented, amongst them the large Swiss Flag of our Consulate. All this contributed most efficiently towards the creation of a very happy atmosphere and a real "Heimat-Stimmung". Also this year we had our "Schueblig" specially flown in by Swissair, and we are most grateful to our dear friend Hans Mettler for interpreting so well our material desires. Our Consul Monsieur Brunner offered us, in his generous way, a good number of bottles, the wine "Made in Switzerland" was a happy and unexpected surprise to us all and our sincere thanks went to the worthy representant of our Country.

The President of the Manchester Swiss Club, with a few appropriate words greeted everyone present, mentioning in a special way our compatriots from Yorkshire and their President Prof. Inebnit still absent abroad after his serious illness, but now recovering. We hope to see him soon again amongst us. He thanked all the members of the Committee and the other helpers for their work in arranging this function so well and he singled out our Secretary Mrs. Trudi Monney; on her shoulders rested the main burden of organisation, she had actually all the worries but also the satisfaction of work well done. At the end he appealed, as many times before, to our members to help and support their Swiss Clubs and Societies and not shrink from their moral responsibility towards their fellow compatriots. By attending our meetings more regularly they will not only get to know a lot of Swiss abroad better, but beside amusement and distraction also render useful service and fellowship to our Community.

After having read the message of our *Bundespräsident* Hans Schaffner to an attentive and receptive audience he gave the word to our Consul Monsieur Brunner, who in his usual clear and warm way told us about our country, about the "Fifth Switzerland", the many problems confronting us, the good results so far achieved in the political

and economical fields, and creating in us the sincere feeling that we are well looked after and cared for.

A worthy climax to this evening was a huge First of August fire, a gift from our Vice-President. The lovely fireworks were efficiently directed by our dear friend and good member Dr. Bolliger who did everything in such a way as to allay any possible fear for our own safety. A memorable evening ended with the singing of our National Anthem "Trittst im Morgenrot daher", and then we bid our friends "au revoir" with best wishes for a safe journey home.

E.B.

PERSONAL

We have great pleasure in announcing the marriage of Mr. Henri André Jeanmaire of Corner Cottage, Beaconsfield, Bucks, to Miss Yvonne Hartz from Stutzheim, France. The couple was married on 5th July, and we wish them every happiness.

* * *

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Baumann of 24 Gurney Drive, N.2, on the birth of a third daughter Christina. We send the baby and her happy family best wishes for the future.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr. Siro Alberti of 15 Spring Gardens, Malvern Link, Worcester, will be celebrating his 76th birthday on 30th August. Mr. Alberti hails from Olivone in the Ticino and is one of the oldest members of the Unione Ticinese, having joined in 1911.

Mr. A. Schmid of "Westfield", Hatfield, Herts, will be celebrating his 80th birthday on 2nd September. For many years he and his wife were at the Glendower Hotel, S.W.7, and both have been very active in the Swiss community. Mr. Schmid is a member of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Rifle Association and took a keen interest in the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Rest Centre during the war.

Mr. J. Fairweather of 20 Ranelagh Mansions, S.W.6, will be 76 on 7th September.

We wish all three gentlemen many happy returns of the day.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

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