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RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Jakob Mosimann (86), Birsfelden, former *Regierungsrat* of Baselland, the first Social Democrat in the Cantonal Government; he served for 21 years; died following a road accident (pedestrian crossing).

Joseph Biner (74), St. Niklaus (Valais), for 50 years a mountain guide with many first ascents to his credit (East wall of the Jungfrau, Wetterhorn from the Grosse Scheidegg, member of expeditions in Norway, the Tirol and the Himalayas).

Dr. Adam Oser (90), Monaco, where he lived since 1946; for many years in leading position in the "Société Chimique des Usines du Rhône" at Saint Fons; successful in developing methods for raw materials useful in defence in the first world war; founder of the Reformed Church in Monaco and Hon. President of the Swiss Colony in the Principality; Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

Léon-Auguste Wirz (100), oldest inhabitant of La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Dr. h.c. Ernst Meyer (70), Solothurn, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Roamer Watch Co. s.a.; he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Fribourg.

Pater Dr. Lothar Schlaepfer (64), Appenzell, religious author and teacher of Greek and Latin at the Kollegium Appenzell for over 30 years.

Paul-Henri Wyss (98), Basle, the second-oldest inhabitant of the Canton; pioneer in *Kaltwalztechnik;* founder of the Kaltwalzwerke Wyss at Pratteln after having been in charge of the firm at Courrendlin until 1930.

Armand Brunschvig (85), Geneva, well-known personality in Jewish organisations in Switzerland; founder and President of the Swiss Jewish Organisation for Rehabilitation through Work (ORT) and Vice-Chairman of the Central Council of ORT World Union.

Domherr Norbert Viatte (63), Saint-Maurice, Professor of French Literature and author of many works.

Dr. Fritz Rothen (82), Berne, pioneer of radio and telecommunications; entered the service of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse in 1910 and represented it during the first sessions of the League of Nations; Chairman of the "Schweiz. Rundspruch Gesellschaft" from 1950 to 1957.

Jean-Pierre Jéquier (32), Neuchâtel, archaeologist of the Canton of Neuchâtel.

Rudolf Reinhold Junghanns (82), Zurich, well-known artist of German origin; in Switzerland since 1916.

Prof. Dr. Fritz Blanke (66), Zurich, Protestant theologian; since 1929 Professor of Church History at Zurich University; well-known author on religious subjects.

Prof. Michel Plancherel (82), Zurich, former Professor of Higher Mathematics at the ETH, whose Rector he was from 1931 to 1934; during the war he was in charge of the section Press and Radio (Colonel); killed on a pedestrian crossing.

Prof. Dr. Fritz Gysi (79), Zurich, well-known music critic and writer; Lecturer on History of Music at Zurich University since 1921; Professor since 1931; he also lectured at several other music institutes, such as the *Musikschule* in Winterthur; music critic of the Zurich "Tagesanzeiger"; received the Golden Hans-Georg-Naegeli-Medal for special merits in music (on his birthday on 18th February).

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Frey (65), Berne, head of the "Schweizerische Depeschenagentur" (Agence Télégraphique Suisse) since 1943; citizen of Ettiswil (Lucerne), he was educated at the *Gymnasium* in Lucerne and studied history at Zurich University; after doing historic research in Italy on behalf of the Carnegie Foundation for a number of years, he joined the "Luzerner Tagblatt"; co-founder of a federation of news agencies in small and medium countries and of the International Alliance of News Agencies; creator of the telephone news service, a novelty known in few countries; extraordinary Professor of Scientific Journalism at the Universities of Zurich and Berne; from 1935 till 1943, Liberal *Grossrat* of Lucerne; in the Army, he served with Heavy Artillery until he suffered Poliomyelitis in 1936, and since then in the territorial service, ending up as Army Staff Major, Section Press and Radio. With Prof. Frey, the Swiss Press and news service lost not only one of their most fair and competent members, but a man of great courage and integrity.

[A.T.S.]

HURRICANES AND SUNSHINE

February, like January, was a generally mild month with less rain and more sunshine than usual, especially in the Midlands and the Jura where 120-140% of the normal duration of sunny periods was registered. The Ticino was somewhat below average. Snow for wintersports was not too plentiful except for the higher regions.

On 23rd February, a hurricane-like storm swept through Switzerland causing widespread damage and some loss of life; the temperature dropped immediately by about 10°C. Train services were disrupted and delayed, trees were uprooted, churches, schools, factories as well as homes were made roofless or otherwise damaged. Near Kapelleg (Lucerne) 500 fir trees were uprooted or broken in a small area no more than 400 metres long. 40,000 cubic metres of wood were uprooted in the Aargau, 83,000 in Solothurn. The new rifle range at Sargans was pulled off its foundation walls, and the TV aerial mast Biberlikopf was broken. Several cranes of considerable size and height were pulled down. The hangar of the Alpine Rescue Service at Kloten was badly damaged, and tram trailer cars were derailed near Basle. In the Diegter Valley (Baselland), land subsided and caused accidents and loss of life on the construction site of the Ebenrain tunnel (N2).

The storms raged for several days, and damage has been such that even in Parliament questions were asked. Early March, from everywhere in Switzerland, brilliant sunshine and warm weather were reported. The only exceptions as to high temperatures were Arosa, Bivio and the Jungfraujoch, although there, too, the sun smiled as if the hurricanes had never happened.

Reports have been published regarding hail damage in 1966; 9,000 incidents had been reported, and 6.1m. francs have been paid out in claims.

(*A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".*)

IRON AND DIAMOND WEDDINGS

In February, Mr. and Mrs. Enrico and Ida Wintsch (Bellinzona) and Mr. and Mrs. J. Spaetig-Ecabert (Berne) celebrated their Diamond wedding. On 17th February, Mr. and Mrs. Louis von Allmen (Neuchâtel) were able to observe the iron anniversary of their wedding.