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THREE VERY DIFFERENT 50th ANNIVERSARIES

An exhibition on three floors at the Zurich *Stadthaus* marked the Golden Jubilee of the **Swiss National Tourist Office**, the "Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale". In 1917, a national federation for the promotion of travel communications was founded, which opened its office in Zurich soon afterwards. The SNTO has always known how to combine publicity with art, and the poster exhibition documented this to the full. In 1967 alone, nearly a quarter of a million posters were sent to agencies, travel offices and airlines, in addition to between 14 and 15 million brochures and prospectuses. Between 1960 and 1967, twenty new colour films were made. Their quality may be judged from the fact that 23 were awarded prizes at international festivals and competitions.

At the end of November, Switzerland's best known orchestra, the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romand**, celebrated its Golden Jubilee at the same time as its founder and chief conductor, Ernest Ansermet, celebrated his 85th birthday. A concert to mark the double event took place in Geneva, at which the master himself and his successor, Polish-born Paul Klecki, conducted.

A commemoration ceremony took place in Olten of the **General Strike** which had begun in Switzerland in the bleak November days of 1918. The event was organised by the Swiss Trade Union Federation, and the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Spuehler, Federal Councillor Tschudi and the President of the National Council Dr. H. Conzett were amongst the many guests of honour. The strike had begun as a local stoppage in Zurich, but it turned into a national one when negotiations with the Federal Council had broken down. Some of the speakers underlined the fact that the Government had not kept up with events during the first world war and had not been alive to the difficulties the end of the war brought. All the "Olten Committee" at the time wanted, was to re-introduce the citizen's liberties and rights and the realisation of urgent economic and social proposals. The strike, the former President Leuenberger said, had been the introduction to "political clarification". In the second war, the social conscience had been awakened, and the Government was ready for the post-war years.

In Zurich, too, a commemoration ceremony took place, and the tragic events preceding the general strike were remembered, when Swiss soldiers were used to bring order into the chaos on the Muensterhof in Zurich.

Naturally, the strike of 1918 is judged from different angles, and the views of the Left is not necessarily shared by all. But it cannot be denied that the general strike took Switzerland to the brink of civil war.

The "Schweizer Monatshefte" issued a special number in which, for the first time, documents were published from the archives of the Wille, von Sprecher and Sonderegger families. Of special interest is a letter in which General Wille implores the Federal Council that to prevent was better than to cure and asks for energetic measures. The publication contains extracts from the diary of the Chief of the General Staff von Sprecher, dealing with the dramatic scenes in Olten where he had personally asked for an end to the strike. For the first time, too, the report is published in which Divisional Commander Sonderegger (*Platzkommandant* of Zurich) describes the crucial events in Zurich and the use of troops.

(A.T.S. and "Weekly Tribune" Geneva.)

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

The following couples have recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversaries (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. Christian and Elisa Jaberg (Oberlangenegg, Thun), Mr. and Mrs. Jakob Kistler-Haas (Hinwil, Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. E. Brandt, Mr. and Mrs. Léon Bauer, and Mr. and Mrs. Léon Cruchod (all three in La Chaux-de-Fonds), Mr. and Mrs. Alphons Orsat (Martigny), Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm and Lydia Schneider-Schweizer (Basle) and Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Campagnola-Pastega (St. Imier).

(A.T.S.)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Prof. Léopold Boissier (75), Geneva, former President of the International Red Cross Committee, lawyer and diplomat. He died as a result of a riding accident.

Paul Wirz (73), Huenibach (BE), leading personality in the retail trade and holder of offices in national and international trade organisations.

René Pittier, known as the actor René Paul (54), Nyon, electro-engineer, but went on the stage in South Africa in 1938 and rose to international fame, especially in the Americas.

Herman Schaller (59), Solothurn, *Domorganist and Chor-direktor*; well-known musician.

Dipl. Ing. ETH Paul Kradolfer (77), Wabern (BE), former General Manager of the SBB.

Ernst Hess (56), Egg (Zurich), *Musikdirektor*, conductor, teacher of music theory at the Winterthur Conservatoire; expert on Mozart; composer; inspector of the Swiss *Militaerspiele* since 1961.

Alois Theytaz (58), Sierre, Prefect of the Sierre District; member of the Valais Cantonal Parliament for over 20 years; lawyer and Editor-in-Chief of "Patrie Valaisanne" and contributor to many publications.

René Bickert (79), Geneva, originally from Neuchâtel, Consul-General for Monaco in Geneva from 1941 until recently.

Henri Estoppey (50), Biel, watch manufacturer; founder and President of the "Association Patronale Horlogère"; member of the Biel authorities.

Oskar Guyer (82), Zurich, former Headmaster and teacher at the Cantonal Commercial School; Dr. sc. nat. ETH and teacher at the Lyceum Alpinum at Zuoz before joining the *Kantonale Handelsschule* in 1915.

Dr. Ernst Laur (72), Zurich, Honorary Doctor of the ETH for his active interest and work in the three fields of *Heimatleben*, *Heimatwerk* and *Heimatschutz*; for 30 years President of the Swiss *Trachtenvereinigungen*; founder of the "Schweizer Heimatwerk" in 1930 and much concerned in help for the mountain farmers; inventor of the "Schoggitaler" which is being sold every year in aid of some nature or homeland preservation scheme.

Maurice Walter (63), Herbriggen near St. Niklaus (Visp Valley), *Pfarrherr*; former *Provinzial* of the Missionary Order Marianhill.

Dr. phil. Johann Jakob (81), Zurich; *Titularprofessor* and head of the Chemistry Laboratory of the Institute for Crystallography at the ETH.

Richard Katz (80), Locarno, well-known globetrotter and travel writer.