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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

Schützenfest

The fortunes of the Swiss Rifle Association's team at the Federal Shooting Festival in Thun have been left unreported in these pages. We fortunately have received the following communication from Mr. Peter Fischer, vice-president of the Swiss Rifle Association:

As on former occasions, the Swiss Rifle Association, London, sent a team to the *Eidg. Schuetzenfest Thun 1969*, where they competed in the *Auslandschweizerwettkämpf*.

The very different atmosphere and tensions, compared with those at our training-ground at Bisley, re-acted on our members in different ways but nevertheless we managed to reach 3rd. position out of the 13 teams competing from many parts of the world. The individual results of our team were:—

F. Magnin36 points (Distinction)
M. Bucherer	..35 " (")
P. Fischer35 " (")
J. Wetter Jr.34 " (")
A. Mehr30 " "
J. Fluehmann	..28 " "
A. Schmid24 " "
B. Jaeggi22 " "
P. Schmid17 " "

For the 3rd. position our Association was rewarded with the Gold Laurel, a *Berner Zinnkanne* and a beautiful, and very large, cow-bell! Some of our members also won distinctions in several individual competitions.

All those taking part agreed that the organisation generally and particularly for the Swiss Abroad was excellent and the friendliness and helpful attitude of the people of Thun was much appreciated.

On the Official Day our Section took part in the great procession through the beautiful town of Thun, extensively beflagged for the occasion. We were well received by the onlookers in our "City Gentlemen" outfits, consisting of bowler hats, and rolled umbrellas, each with a copy of "The Times" under the arm.

The Special Day for the Swiss Abroad (*der Auslandschweizertag*) was the 17th July, and, as for the whole of our stay in Thun, we were blessed with perfect weather. In the morning there was a visit to the "fairy-tale" castle of Thun, followed by a banquet in the *Festhalle*. Then came a boat trip to the Castle of Spiez, where we were offered a very acceptable aperitif and entertained by Alphornblowers, Flagswingers, an excellent Jodel-group, and a dance band which also played on the boat on the return journey to Thun. For those who still had some energy left, there was a cabaret and

dancing in the *Festhalle* until the early hours. This was a memorable day for all of us, and we all look forward to the next E.S.F. at Aarau in 1974.

Mr. Hans Urben has sent us some additional details on that great event:

....In unserer Mannschaft befanden sich auch der älteste sowie der jüngste Schütze der Auslandschweizervereine, nämlich Veteran Adolf Schmid sowie dessen 17 Springen Sohn Peter, welcher auch aktiv mithalf, die Preise zu erringen: hauptsächlich einen goldenen Lorbeerkrantz, eine Berner Zinnkanne sowie eine Kuhglocke mit welcher wir das Jassen einläuten können. Der 83 jährige Adolf Schmid wurde vom Schweizer Radio sowie Fernsehen dementsprechend in Beschlag genommen, war er doch seit 1929 an jedem Eidg. dabei.

The Swiss Church comforts those overworked policemen

The Swiss Church in Endell street has had new neighbours for two weeks. The "London Street Commune" selected the neighbouring old, disused school-building, where Sunday school had at one time been conducted, as its new headquarters.

On Wednesday afternoon, October 24th, a dense crowd of by-standers, journalists, photographers and police were pressed around the building, expecting it to be stormed at any moment. In the evening, the police started acting by forbidding all hippies from entering their diggings, but real action didn't start yet. It was to begin only at three in the morning, when two coach-loads of helmeted police, armed with shields and crow-bars, arrived and immediately assaulted the barricaded building, emptying it of its occupants in about twenty minutes.

Their common youth-evening having ended, Father Bossart and Pastor Stefan remained in the church to see how things would develop next door. It was past midnight and the police were still waiting for orders to take action. One policeman, and then another, peeped in the church hall and asked whether use could be made of the W.C. Then a very pale and tired-out bobby, who had been on the beat in front of the squatters' abode for the whole day, was brought in by his comrades, who asked whether he could be offered a cup of tea. Pastor Stefan went down to the kitchen and heated the big tea kettle. In the event, every policeman on duty came in turn and enjoyed a comforting cup of tea. The press, intrigued by all this movement in the church had a look in, and were also warmly invited. The

"Evening Standard", the "Daily Express" and "Daily Mail" were among the papers represented in our church hall. Reporting is not a relaxing job: one fellow had not left the site since six in the morning. It was well past midnight!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SWISS Y.M.C.A.

On Sunday, August 31st this year, the 75th Annual August Conference took place at the Glockenhof in Zurich. The event is held annually and brings together a large number of young, and not-so-young, men who at one time or another were members of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. whilst in London.

This year's Conference was rather special in view of the fact that it was the 75th, and it was held under the presidentship of Mr. A. Th. Dejung. Approx. 60-70 people were present and it was noted that the attendance of "Veteran-members" was very good indeed and they were well represented. These veterans are those members who were in London between 1905-1925.

The proceedings started at 8.30 a.m. with the reading of Psalm 90. This subject was treated in a bible study in which all the members present took part. Hymns were sung in both English and French since the Conference grouped together old Paris members as well as the old Londoners.

A collection was made to assist the funds of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. in London and the very generous sum of SFr.1000 — was collected in addition to SFr.1000 — contributed by members who could not be present at the Conference. Moreover, a cheque for SFr.500 was presented by Mr. Dejung as President of the August Conference Committee. This jubilee present was to cover the cost of purchasing a new tent for our camping enthusiasts.

Our President, Mr. Gordon Burkhalter, gave a short report on the present activities of the Swiss members in London and was able to prove that the association is very much alive and tries its utmost to encourage young Swiss to join the Swiss Y.M.C.A. at the Central Y.M.C.A. Building. One special appeal was made that all members in Switzerland should always remember to publicize the existence of a Swiss Y.M.C.A. in London. Without the prayerful support of our friends in Switzerland and other countries and the financial assistance of the August Conference Committee the work of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. could not have gone on for 81 years. Later, during the more informal part of the Conference,