

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: - (1970)

Heft: 1591

Rubrik: Comment

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The Swiss Observer

Published Twice Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON E.C.2
Tel.: 01-253 2321

Telegrams: Paperwyse Stock London

HON. PRESIDENT: Robert J. Keller

EDITOR: Pierre-Michel Beguin

Advisory Council:

Gottfried Keller (Chairman)
O. F. Boehringer, J.P., (Hon. Sec.)
F. Burri, J. Eusebio, Dr. C. Jagmetti
(Press Attaché Swiss Emb.)

A. Kunz, C. Nater, R. M. Suess
PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(POST FREE)

UNITED KINGDOM

24 issues . . .	£2. 8.0
12 issues . . .	£1. 5.0
6 issues . . .	£ 13.0

SWITZERLAND & Elsewhere

24 issues Frs. 25 — or	£2.10.0
12 issues Frs. 13 — or	£1. 6.0

Swiss subscriptions may be paid into
Postcheck-Konto Basle 40-5718

Editor's telephone: 01-602 1378

has been with Chelsea for 11 years. He has twelve under-23 and six international caps to his credit.

At 5ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., Bonetti is considered to be fairly small for a goalkeeper by football writers. He contests this judgment. Whatever he may or may not lack in height he amply compensates by his prodigious ability to leap for the ball. This is why he is nicknamed "the cat".

I asked him if he could express his way of football in a motto. He told me that his only motto was to give absolutely all he'd got in a game. He humbly admits that some basic aptitudes are necessary in the making of a good goalkeeper, but says that experience is vital for the development of a sure instinct. Bonetti finds that he's still learning at every match and says that he's never played better than he does now. Millions of his admirers, I know, would support that statement a thousand per cent. Many don't hesitate to name him the best goalkeeper in the world. A goalkeeper has to take more physical risk than any other player on the field. Bonetti told me that the guts to jump at the feet of an attacker had to be part of the 'keeper's constitution.

As he speaks none of our federal languages, Bonetti cannot keep in touch with Swiss football by reading the Swiss press. Also, Swiss football is not reported in the British press, which means that he isn't in touch with what is happening on Swiss grounds. He missed his club's trip to Switzerland in 1966, when it beat Lugano 3-2 and Chaux-de-Fonds 1-0 because he was held in the English 28 for the World Cup. His only contact with Swiss football, if it may be termed thus, was in August 1968, when he had the honour of inaugurating Sion's new stadium after descending onto the pitch in a helicopter. Mr. Edgar Bonvin, a prominent figure in our London Swiss Colony, was the chief promoter of this trip, and he

doubtless enjoyed the co-operation of his illustrious cousin, the head of the Federal Department of Transport and Communications.

Mr. Bonvin, it should be said in passing, is a fervent Chelsea supporter. He caters for the players before every home match. I'm sure that the excellent cooking and the warm atmosphere of the "Montana" must have contributed to their remarkable success this season. The team comes at noon in order to have accomplished both their meal and their digestion well before week-end matches, which start at 3 p.m. They may only take a light meal. The healthiest combination is a choice steak accompanied with fresh toasts and capped with rice pudding for sweet. Unctuous foods such as whipped cream with pastry are strictly forbidden! Bonetti prefers roast chicken to steak and he says he's the only member of the team to do so.

Need we say it, Mr. Bonvin assumes a big responsibility in feeding such an important team. Just suppose the butter used for the steak served to one of the players hadn't been fresh on that lunch before the Cup Final. The labours in his stomach might have absorbed that extra ounce of energy and caused him to make a fatal mistake! Preparing food for Chelsea must be as delicate as preparing a moon launch!

Bonetti waited patiently while I tried to decipher the crumpled piece of paper on which I had jotted my questions. I eventually found a final question, which was to ask him which other goalkeeper he most admired. He didn't hesitate to name Gordon Banks, the Stoke and England 'keeper.

The next day, Bonetti fought like a lion. He strained his shoulder during the game and was unavailable for Chelsea's match against Stoke the following Monday. Fortunately, Chelsea won. The team will meet Leeds for the Cup Final replay at Old Trafford on Wednesday 29th. With Bonetti in goal, I feel that Chelsea's victory is almost assured!

(PMB)

COMMENT

THE SWISS AND CONSERVATION

Between Saint Aubin and Vaumarcus, there used to be a delightful spot, a small creek, dry rocks where one could bask in the sun, calm and limpid waters where I spent many happy hours as a child. Later, the spot was sold and became private property. At the same time, the main road between Yverdon and Neuchâtel which skirts the lake was being rebuilt and the engineers designed steps reaching down to the water and a lay-by for motorists. This became a favoured spot for a dip, but, gradually, the water became less transparent, the beach stones more

slimy, and today few people like to bathe there. A bathing spot without a shower can be considered as unhygienic on any major lake in Switzerland. Another personal experience on the Lake of Neuchâtel was a brave swim from the beach at Saint Blaise to a dredger that was anchored some four hundred yards away. I had less courage for the return journey and chose the shortest route to the shore, and this led me through a dense cloud of flies and a spawn of dead fish with their silvery bellies facing the sky. As it turned out, I came ashore next to the mouth of a sewer. Lake Geneva is even worse. The stench that was wafted from the water in summer always defeated my attempts to study on the waterfront near to Geneva's famous fountain. These common experiences show how easily new buildings, new estates and the refuse of our industrial society can spoil the enjoyment of nature for anybody.

Environmental neurosis

As we all know, the problem of pollution has become a major preoccupation throughout the industrial world. The salvation of environment has been placed as a national priority by the president of the United States and this year has been christened as The European Conservation Year.

The Swiss, who are blessed with a beautiful country, are naturally most fervent campaigners for the protection of natural environment. Judging from the number of societies devoted to the protection of nature (these societies claim a membership of 250,000) one may deduce that Swiss people are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of the problem. This awareness is not only dictated from higher circles but is finding its seat in the consciousness and the behaviour of every citizen. Schoolchildren, for example, are taken out on spring afternoons by their teachers to comb out pastures and woods from the droppings of picnickers. A complete recruit school was needed to clean the Vinges forest in the Valais and enough was dredged out to fill eleven lorries. Such cases are well publicised and legislation already covers the offence of littering and polluting the environment. Nature advocates are presently pressing for a stiffer legislation, strengthened with prison sentences for the worst offences. Sometimes, the scare of environmental pollution assumes the proportion of a generalised neurosis. A chemical company wanted to build a factory near a village in Schaffhausen, but the Commune would have none of it because the plant would have produced fifteen tons of fumes a day, a comparatively small quantity. Schaffhausen appears to be particularly concerned with its own environment and the electricity industry's decision to build dams on the Rhine at Rheinau and Neuhausen was steadfastly opposed by local nature lovers. They were not only concerned with the uglification of the sites where

the projects were to be realised, but with the alteration of the flow of the Rhine and the subsequent imbalance in its aquatic life.

The case of Schaffhausen and the Valais

Needless to say, a compromise will have to be found between the legitimate requirements of industry and those of nature. If the phobia of fumes, noise and wastes were pushed to extremes then a situation comparable to the case of Midway airport in the United States would arise. There, the local population clamoured for a shut-down of the airport because its noise was poisoning their lives. The consequences were disastrous for the economic welfare of the region and the same people had to reclaim their airport. But, without shifting this delicate balance in one way or the other, the government of Schaffhausen has launched a thorough conservation programme which can be considered as a worthy example. According to a new federal provision, an inventory of every natural site, quaint village and historical building in the canton is going to be established and means for their protection indicated. In this way, there will be a legally-established map of the areas deserving protection and this will serve as a useful basis for future economic planning. Beauty spots such as the "Graete", a pastured hill near to Merishausen, are to be protected from human incursions. The swamp of Morgenweiher is to be transformed to what it was before, a small lake well known for its carp. The Carl Stemmler reservation in the Eschenthal will be acquired by the Canton and the whole area kept free of industry, thus presenting a pleasant contrast with the built-up and deforested valleys of Herblinger and Fulach. A "wilderness" will furthermore be mapped out along the border between Schaffhausen with Germany and the Black Forest.

Similar endeavours could be found across the country. Only to name the Valais, the forests of Binn and Aletsch are declared to be natural preserves. Derborence is a national preserve, the zones of Tanay, Grammont, Lake Morgins, Rosel-Dorénaz, Toerbel, Les Follatères and the sixty square miles

of the Val de Bagnes are officially-protected regions.

The idea of protecting regions is not only to preserve beauty sites from man-made adulterations but also to preserve animals and plants. Scientists have found that a third of the total number of the plant species of Aarau, some four hundred of them, have disappeared in a century. Many well-known flowers of the Alps, such as the edelweiss and the orchid, are threatened with extinction because tourists pick them thoughtlessly. The bear, the lynx and the wild boar have been wiped out from the Alps, but the chamois, the deer and the bouquetin are standing firm. The marmot is tending to disappear in some regions.

Contamination by fuels

Environment is not yet as badly hit in Switzerland as it is in the United States. No Swiss river has ever caught fire, there is no prevalent need for earth-worn factories, no single newspaper consumes 200 acres of forest for a Sunday edition and a town like Biel has five times less dust than New York. Still, Switzerland has factories which inevitably spill considerable amounts of chemicals into lakes and rivers. Their chimneys continue to soil the air, although measurements have shown that, in Switzerland they accounted for only 35% of air pollution whereas the exhaust gases of motor vehicles produces 40% of atmospheric pollution, and house chimneys 25%. As elsewhere, there is increasing concern about the carbon monoxide contained in the exhaust fumes of cars. Cars will probably have to be fitted with carbon monoxide eliminators within a number of years. Another component of car fumes which is harmful to human health and nature is the lead mixed with high-grade petrol to prevent engine knock. This lead is expelled and settles in plants and human cells. The trend for high-compression engines has accelerated lead-poisoning of urban atmosphere and there is much talk of changing the present taxation scale on motorcars which favours small but high-powered engines. Another anti-pollution bit of legislation that has been established in some cantons is to line the pits containing tanks for domestic heating with impermeable

material. One pint of heating fuel can contaminate all the water drunk by a human in two years. It is then not surprising that emptying out a can of used oil in a stream is considered as an offence in Switzerland.

The plight of Swiss lakes

The by-products of modern life which have the worst effects on Swiss environments are the phosphorous and nitrogen contained in domestic detergents, in anti-fur products for boilers and in agricultural fertilisers. Human and animal excrement contains a minimum of phosphorus which naturally cannot be eliminated. Purifying plants have been built extensively throughout the country to palliate the problem but, due to the imperfection of technology, they still leave 10 per cent of the original phosphorus unprocessed. This phosphorus is carried away by streams and rivers into lakes, fertilising their bed excessively. Algae of all kinds (including new species) find an ideal soil and thrive on this excess of nutrient with the effect of using up the oxygen of the lake and suffocating its fauna. In this way, the lakes of Geneva, Neuchatel and Lugano are slowly becoming stagnant quagmires.

Geneva City has four "algae-mowers" which scrape the luxuriant vegetation of the harbour. They stashed five hundred tons of algae on lorries last year. These machines are considered to be the best way of containing the algae. Chemicals are avoided because they inevitably have side-effects, such as poisoning fishes and birds, and making lake water even more undrinkable than it already is.

Scientists recently diagnosed the Lake of Geneva like doctors bent over a sick man. They found that it had lost 50,000 tons of oxygen between 1966 and 1968 and that there was an increasing disequilibrium between its surface and lower waters. Germs, fecal bacterias, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, new varieties of algae had forced their way into the lake, whose ecology was going haywire. The only way of saving Lake Geneva, they said, was to stop flushing it with phosphorus and nitrogen.

(PMB)

THESE VEHICLES



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
with vans specially equipped to carry

— Household Removals. — Exhibition Goods.
— Works of Art. — Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

KEHRLI + OELER,
Nachf. A. Oeler,
3001 Berne,
Bubenbergplatz 9.
Tel. 031 22 00 22.

In England

NEALE & WILKINSON LTD.,
1 and 2 Rangoon Street,
London, E.C.3.
Tel. 01-480 6351, ext. 51 or 56.