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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB

Activities of the Swiss of the North between March 1970 and March 1971

With a few exceptions we met on the first Tuesday of every month at the British Council House, 1 St. Mark's Avenue, Leeds 2.

3rd March, 1970

This was just an ordinary get-together for a friendly talk and discussion, with refreshments served by our ladies.

7th April, 1970

A fair number of members attended the Annual General Meeting, our President, Professor J. Ph. Inebnit, being in the Chair. The past year's activities were very briefly reviewed. The accounts submitted showed favourable results, reserves having considerably increased. A decision was taken to renew the £5 subscription to the Manchester Relief Society. Then came the election of the Committee. Professor J. Ph. Inebnit offered to withdraw but he was persuaded to accept this Office for another year.

The New Committee Elected are:

President, Professor J. Ph. Inebnit; Vice-President, Mr. E. Berner; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. K. Kaegi; Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. E. Lerch and Mrs. R. Leathly; Member, Mrs. L. Berner.

Hebden Bridge—Swiss Association

To this organisation which assures the liaison between the town of Hebden Bridge and the Swiss Club in matters of "Landsgemeinde", the following members of our Club were appointed: Mr. J. Amman, Mr. E. Berner, Mrs. L. Berner.

27th April, 1970

The Annual Dinner and Social was held at the Griffin Hotel in Leeds, and once again a great success. Our guests of honour were: Our Consul Mr. R. Born, and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. D. Fletcher from Hebden Bridge, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Themans from the Manchester Swiss Club. There was music, songs, party games, and even a friend from Leeds Magic Circle who mystified us with some excellent conjuring tricks. There was also a raffle (enhanced by some lovely and interesting prizes) which helped towards the evening's expenses.

1st May, 1970

We met in good numbers at the Foreign Circle, 10 Eldon Place, Bradford, an avenue secured for us the first time a few years ago by Mr. J. M. Lowe. May we express to him our appreciation for what his wife (daughter of our late Honorary President, John Jenny) and he are doing for our Club. We were entertained by a most interesting illustrated talk on Switzerland given to us by our Swiss friend, Mr. G. Ulrich Frei.

2nd June, 1970

Ordinary Club meeting when our friend Mr. G. Ulrich Frei gave us the second part of his illustrated talk on Switzerland. Matters appertaining to the impending Landsgemeinde were also discussed during the evening.

21st June, 1970

This was the day of the Landsgemeinde, the get-together of the Swiss of the North and the strengthening of our bonds of friendship with the town of Hebden Bridge—quite a unique event in this country. The Landsgemeinde is the climax of a Swiss Week organised in this town by the Hebden—Swiss Association, well patronised by

the Chairman of Hebden Royd Urban District Council, the Rural District Council of Hepton, the Calder Civic Trust, and other authorities in the Region. We noticed representatives and dignitaries of the Rotary Club, the Ladies Circle, the Inner Wheel, the Halifax Scouts Council and the Calder Valley Club. From London we had Pastor Nicod, Pierre-Michel Beguin (Editor of "The Swiss Observer"). From Manchester, our Consul, Mr. R. Borne, and Madam Borne, and Mr. B. Simon, President of the Manchester Swiss Club. The day was in the hands of Professor Inebnit who conducted the proceedings in his customary and efficient way.

September, 1970

A proposed coach outing for the 20th or 27th September, 1970, had to be cancelled through lack of support from our members and our next meeting was thus convened for:

6th October, 1970

The attendance was once again good and Mr. P. Lerch gave us a most interesting talk on his experiences at the Ausland-Schweizer-Tag in Zofingen, perhaps an encouragement for some of us to take part in the future. Our Vice-President informed the members of some incorrect statements the "Swiss Observer" had made regarding the solidarity and continuity of our Club. Since then this particular statement has been rectified.

16th November, 1970

As arranged by Mr. R. Muller, a large group of our members and friends had the pleasure of being shown around the imposing Sandoz Works at Horsforth, near Bradford, chaperoned by some executives of this important Swiss firm. It was a most interesting educational tour and was concluded in

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their modern and pleasantly decorated canteen where refreshments were served. It is hoped that some similar outings can be arranged in the future.

2nd December, 1970

This time—and by the kindness of Miss Stratton, the general secretary of the Leeds Council of Social Service—we were able to meet on their premises. It was a good meeting and we enjoyed a slide show given to us by our member Mr. P. Lerch illustrating the beauties of Zermatt and Kandersteg and its surroundings.

5th December, 1970

This year's Annual Dinner and Dance of the Bradford Publicity Association had as its theme "Switzerland". The Yorkshire Swiss Club was represented, so was the Swiss Consulate in Manchester, the Vice-Consul being the guest of honour. It turned out to be a brilliant and extremely well directed function. Our compatriot Mr. Bertulett, known to us as "Hans of Switzerland", kept the audience spellbound with his superb accordion playing and Swiss folk songs, during cabaret time.

5th January, 1971

A most enjoyable "Swiss Supper and Specialities" Evening was held in the rooms of the Leeds Council of Social Services, St. Mark's Avenue, Leeds, well supported by members and friends. A first-class well-stocked buffet offered by our ladies, included Swiss cakes, Christmas specialities, Bartholdy Schueblig. Our famous compatriot, Mr. H. Bertulett, contributed to the musical entertainment with his fine accordion playing, matched only by his own songs and yodelling, sometimes joined by the audience. A good start to the New Year and an evening to remember.

2nd February, 1971

We were particularly happy to welcome our members Rev. D. Young and Mrs. Young (who was for many years our Honorary Treasurer). Bad weather conditions, perhaps the postal strike, restricted somewhat our audience, but we had the pleasure of admiring his slides taken during a Swiss holiday and listening to his comments which were most illustrative and interesting. We touched on such subjects as Chateau-d'Oex, Gruyeres, the Bernese Glaciers and Lakes and many other worthwhile views of our country.

5th March, 1971

We met at the Foreign Circle in Bradford and quite a good number of members and friends turned up in spite of the postal strike, thanks to our direct contacts, the telephone service and the help given to us on this occasion by Radio Leeds. Mr. Sam Hanna, a great friend of Switzerland, well-

known internationally and in television circles, gave us a most interesting film show on old English crafts, such as brush-makers, broom-makers and the very ancient custom of the harvest time "Corn Dollies", all of which are unfortunately rapidly disappearing. We were also thrilled with his films of the Landsgemeinde of 1952 and 1969, and to see again the old friends who are no longer with us, and the many other changes which a span of 17 years brings on us.

At the last but one meeting of the Yorkshire Swiss Club on 5th October the idea was put forward by Mr. Inebnit that the Landsgemeinde should be reconstructed as a model to be the full window display of a shop in the Kramgasse in Berne during the next Assembly of the Swiss Abroad. This would be a worthy contribution from the Swiss of Great Britain to the 50th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad. Mr. Inebnit has welcomed comments, ideas and suggestions from club members.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

Encouraged by the result of our last year's Christmas Draw and in view of the recent developments concerning the Swiss Catholic Mission, the Committee has decided to hold one again this year. The drawing of the prizes will take place on Thursday, 9th December, 1971. With the proceeds we wish to provide additional support for our Chaplain in his task of looking after the several thousand young Swiss temporarily in this country for studies, training or domestic work. And he needs it more than ever.

As you may already know, he has received notice to clear the church and presbytery by the end of this year for redevelopment, and the use of the Westminster Ballroom, our clubhall for the last eight years, was discontinued at the beginning of last September.

In close co-operation with the Ministers of the Swiss Protestant Church, our Chaplain is doing his best to build up a new centre for the young Swiss, where they can meet friends, get advice and help in everything that contributes towards a successful stay abroad and to provide them with the opportunity of meeting young English people. For this purpose he has succeeded in renting the premises of the newly founded John Southworth Community and Youth Centre at 48 Great Peter Street next to St. Ann's Church on Sundays from 3 to 11 p.m. This is already greatly appreciated by our young Swiss, who visit it in ever increasing numbers.

There are plans to increase the facilities offered by opening some of the rooms throughout the week, thus

creating a closer co-operation between the English and Swiss Youth Clubs.

As you will appreciate there is still a lot of work and many problems ahead to make it a success.

May I ask you kindly to consider helping our cause by sending either a donation or a gift in kind for our Christmas Draw.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

O. Grob, Chairman.

Donations to Mr. O. Grob, 60 Seafield Road, London, N.11 1AS

Gifts in kind (latest date 8th December, 1971) to St. Ann's Presbytery, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1.

LEOPOLD SCHAER



We are sad to announce the death of Mr. Leopold Schaer, of 138 Stage Lane, Edgware, Middx., at the age of 84. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Margaret Schaer, to whom we should like to express our feelings of deepest sympathy.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

A well-attended Anglo-Swiss Society Dinner took place at the Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel on 11th November. Members and guests listened to an after-dinner exposé by Dr. E. M. Bircher, former Cultural Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, on "Fifty years of Anglo-Swiss Relations". Dr. Bircher, who is Honorary Secretary of the Society, has lived in England, on-and-off, for about fifty years and has devoted his life to Anglo-Swiss relations, which was the subject of his talk.

It started in 1921 when he was sent by his parents to England to learn English and took up employment with the travel firm of Arnold Lunn, founded by the late Sir Henry Lunn, very soon thereafter. Mr. Arnold Lunn was present and also addressed the meeting. Dr. Bircher's speech abounded in anecdotes and was highly entertaining. He stressed his attachment to Great Britain, which he said was still a great nation with a great future ahead of it. He underlined the importance of Anglo-Swiss relations and expressed the hope that Great Britain would soon extricate itself from current economic difficulties resulting from the loss of an Empire.