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Guisan in turn has expressed great satisfaction at having been given the chance of meeting members of the NSH in particular and Swiss in London in general.

CORRECTION

In the issue of 27th October, page 16, under "Another Departure from London", it was stated that Mr. Burkhalter was also Hon. Auditor to the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1958. This is, of course, an error due to the omission of a line, and the sentence should read: "*Gordon was also Hon. Auditor to the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare Office. He joined the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1958*". Our apologies!

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE OF THE MANCHESTER SWISS CLUB

On Saturday, 11th November, 1972, members and friends met for this most important yearly function at the Excelsior Hotel at Ringway Airport, Manchester, and the exceptionally large number of people attending—of which a good proportion belonged to the younger generation—was again proof enough of the great popularity of such an event, bridging time, space and distances.

As in the past few years, we were honoured by the presence of his Excellency Dr. J. Iselin and his wife (personal friends and guests of our President) who represented our Ambassador in London, who was unable to attend. From Yorkshire we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lerch, two columns of the Club beyond the Pennines who had taken residence in the hotel, as well as their Vice-President. A couple attended from the Liverpool Swiss Club, so that our Northern Colony was well represented. Major Nicholson and his wife were also present and so of course our Consul General and Madame Born, very much liked and loved by their northern flock, whose well-being is so much at their hearts. Many more prominent members and friends could be mentioned but the list would become a very long one.

Contrary to previous years, we met immediately in the banquetting hall which was very richly and tastefully decorated with flowers, ribbons supplied by a committee member, in the colours of red and white, and on the table also were small flags. Brilliance, festivity and expectation were heightened by the superb show of our traditional tombola with its rich display of objects in a great variety and quality, which later on must have given much satisfaction to the lucky winners. For the organising committee and Mrs. Martha Themans, the driving force behind, this meant a wel-

come addition to the club's finances. The aperitifs served to us created very quickly an atmosphere of friendliness, comfort and well-being, so essential for the happy continuation of the evening, making us forget all the worries of this world.

Soon the time arrived to take seats at the tables which were placed around the central dancing floor, and prepared in such a way to allow the grouping of small and congenial parties within the larger framework. On the top table we could see beside our President Dr. Hans Rudi Bolliger and his wife Trudi, Dr. Iselin and Madame, our Consul-General and Mrs. Born, Major Nicholson and his wife, and what mystified some of us there were also present Mr. and Mrs. Themans and Mr. and Mrs. Berner. Lying on the table were four lovely bouquets of flowers, not quite squaring with the number of ladies present. We were just wondering how our President would extricate himself from such a position, but in the course of the evening this "charade" was eventually most brilliantly resolved.

Having gone through a well-chosen and served menu, accompanied by an excellent choice of wines, our President invited us to drink the toast to Her Majesty the Queen, followed by Major Nicholson (who with some happy, chosen words, also mentioned the creation under his wings, many years ago, of the Swiss Rifle Club) proposed the toast to Switzerland. When coffee and liquers were served, our President stood up to welcome the many guests and friends, extending also his warm feelings to everyone present. During his short address he was able to convey to Dr. Iselin and his wife (who was presented with the first bouquet of flowers) the feelings of us all, wishing them a happy stay amongst us. Nobody was forgotten by him but, alas, he brought us also the sad news of the early departure of our immediate past President, Mr. Bernard Simon and his family to London, where he has to take up an important position in his company. It will be a great loss for our Colony because we all got to know him for his great drive and all the life he put into our club's affairs. Dr. Iselin very rightly observed that our loss will be London's gain, but this can only be a small consolation for us and we can only hope that in future he shall find a way to be with us sometime. Good luck to him and God bless. Madame Simon was presented with the second bouquet of flowers. Half of the "charade" was solved.

The words of our President were warmly received and acknowledged in the usual way, after which he invited Dr. Iselin to address us. He brought us the greetings and best wishes from our Ambassador and told us how happy he felt to be again in Manchester—the third time in succession

—a town which for a Swiss is a symbol of industrial power, prosperity, progressive thinking and free enterprise.

He dwelled at some length on some aspects of the last Assembly of the Swiss Abroad and how our President, showing his "Zivilcourage" approached the problem of political rights for Swiss Abroad and how it may be desirable not to be involved in matters of voting at home, but hold on to the "status quo". Otherwise it could well happen that special classes of Swiss are created, based on distances and varying financial means. In this he must have been supported by many of us. Dr. Iselin then had some kind words for our Consul General and the important and hard work he does so well, ably assisted by his staff. He also expressed his satisfaction to be soon able to welcome Mr. Bernard Simon in London.

Continuing, he touched on some aspects in the political, economical and financial fields with special reference to the future of EFTA without Great Britain and some other member states and how this could affect Switzerland and her future participation in the larger community which would come into being as from 1st January, 1973. Concluding, and with special reference to our Ladies, he expressed his hope that we made the most of the opportunities which were offered to us by this festive event. He was most warmly applauded for his clear exposé and kind expressions but before we could follow his recommendation, a surprise was sprung on us—at least for two victims amongst us!

Our Vice-President, Mr. Peter Senn, son of our late Centenary-President, stood up to make a few announcements and he did this in the following order: He reminded us of the good services rendered to his compatriots by Mr. Ermanno Berner during the last 35 years of stay in this country, when on and off he acted seven years as Vice-President and six years as President of the club, and living in Yorkshire he now helps Prof. Inebnit for over six years as Vice-President of that club beyond the Pennines. He has presided over the Swiss Relief Society for the last ten years. The committee felt that all this made him a possible candidate for honorary membership—a decision carried by acclamation. For the recipient, all this came so suddenly and unexpectedly that he hardly found the appropriate words to thank for this honour and his wife being presented with the third bouquet of flowers was certainly also emotionally involved, having all these years so well and successfully supported her husband.

It was now the turn of Mrs. Martha Themans, our Martha, to be informed of a similar decision and how much she deserved this honorary membership. Much of the club's his-

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tory and development is linked to her name. In 1947 after finding it necessary to do something for the "au pair" girls, she started with two other members, Mrs. Huber and Miss Rietmann, the "Ladies Social Club", also because at that time the Manchester Swiss Club was a "men only" affair. It was ten years later that the ladies were taken over by the Swiss Club and she became immediately a member of the new mixed committee, and for the last few years its treasurer. Her great and continuous work for us, her dedication to our cause, has well made her the "Mother" of our club and honorary membership is the only way open to us to reward her for it. Prolonged and sincere applause sealed this happy decision and the fourth bouquet of flowers which went to her solved the "charade" mentioned at the beginning of these lines. All this must have been a great satisfaction to her husband, Laurence, who has supported her all these years.

Time going on, the sale of the tombola tickets started, and although they were of a high value, they fitted the quality of the prizes, and everything finished in good humour and satisfaction for the lucky winners, a great success for the organising committee and the finances of the club.

In the meantime, our band had taken up position and the first inviting tunes attracted more and more couples to the dance floor, and this happy evening went on into the early hours of the morning; dancing, friendly encounters, talking, chatting and sipping, intermingled so happily that the time for our departures arrived much too quickly. However, this was one of the pleasant occasions when we speak only of the "petits depart" which means not the final goodbye but the hope to see us soon again.

M.S.C.

Direct Berne-London Air link in Winter too

The start of winter schedules (from 23rd December) sees the number of flights which DAN AIR operates to link the capitals, Berne and London, in its regular flight network increased to five a week (no flights on Friday or Sunday). The Hawker Siddeley 748 Turbo-prop of DAN AIR leaves Berne-Belpmoos at 3.00 p.m. and reaches London-Gatwick at 4.30 p.m. The return flight starts at London-Gatwick at 10.30 p.m. and lands at 1.50 p.m. in Berne-Belpmoos. The price for a single journey is S.Fr. 280 (S.Fr. 381 for flights from Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow). The return trip costs S.Fr. 560 (S.Fr. 762 from Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow). A meal is served on the flights. Children benefit from price reductions of 90% (under 2 years) to 25% (young people from 12 to 22). More details can be obtained from the Air Terminal (City west, Tel: 031/25 41 41) or the

Berne-Belpmoos Airport (031/54 34 11). In London, contact DAN AIR Services Ltd., 52 New Broad Street, London E.C.2. (Tel: 01-293 4288).

ERNEST WERNER ✕

We have the sad duty of announcing the death of *Mr. Ernest Werner*, beloved husband of Mildred and father of Cynthia and Daphne. Mr. Werner died peacefully on 3rd December in hospital in his eightieth year. He was a longstanding friend of the Swiss Colony in London and a former President and Life Member of the City Swiss Club. We should like to express our heartfelt sympathy to his family for their terrible loss.

BIRTHDAYS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 80th birthday on Boxing Day of *Mr. C. A. Fuchs* of 14 Denehurst Gardens, Hendon NW4. Mr. Fuchs hails from Appenzell and has had a notable career in catering. He is now retired, and we wish him many happy returns on his birthday.

Other birthdays are those of *Mr. E. C. Schmid* on 31st December (78), *Mr. W. Renz* on 2nd January (74), *Mr. C. Nater* (St. Moritz) on the same day (64), *Mr. J. Christen* (Oberwil, Zug) on 3rd January (84), *Mr. E. P. Locher* on 4th January (79), *Mr. A. Baenziger* on 7th January (78) and *Mrs. P. Moehr* on 12th January.

To all those readers and any others who will be celebrating birthdays during the next few weeks, we extend congratulations and best wishes.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GERMAN-SPEAKING SWISS CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Sunday, 17th December, 4 p.m., Eglise Suisse Family Tree (no German morning service). Sunday, 24th December, 10 a.m. at Eglise Suisse: Christmas Service. Sunday, 31st December, 10 a.m. Eglise Suisse: New Year's Service.

FRENCH-SPEAKING SWISS CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Sunday, 24th December, 11.15 a.m. Sunday Service. Monday, 25th December, 11.15 p.m. Christmas Service. Sunday, 24th December, at the Presbytery, 4 p.m.: Christmas celebration for the Youth Club.

Saturday, 6th January: Celebration for the Children of the Colony. YWCA, Gt. Russel St. 2 p.m.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of my dear husband *Frank Seitz* who passed away on 26th December, 1964. I remember you always—Kathleen

J. MULLER ✕

We very much regret to inform our readers of the death of *Mr. J. Muller*, of 26 The Drive, Esher (Surrey) who passed away on the 29th November after a very brief illness.

Mr. Muller was born on the 25th October, 1889 and came from Basle. He joined the Banca Commerciale Italiana in London a year or two before the First World War and by 1919 was a signature holder, in charge of their Foreign Exchange Department, until 1936 when he left prematurely because of all round reduction of staff. He then went into business for a time and from 1945 until 1948 was at the London Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of Geneva, first as assistant to delegates and appointed delegate in 1946, visiting Prisoners of War camps in this country and attending to relief matters. This work was very dear to his heart and he considered it a great honour to be so entrusted with it.

After the closing of the I.C.R.C. delegation at the end of 1948, his banking experience and knowledge of Italian provided him with fresh and interesting activity at the Representative Office in London of the Banco di Napoli.

Mr. Muller joined the City Swiss Club in 1946. He was fond of the countryside and enjoyed long walks almost to the last day of his life.

He leaves a widow and a son, to whom we express our deepest sympathy.

Swiss lady loses fortune

A cat burglar stole £350,000's worth of jewellery from the Hampstead apartment of a Swiss lady resident in Great Britain for the past 13 years: *Mrs. Maria Holder*, 38. The burglar entered the premises in her absence by means of a ladder. An alarm signal was triggered off in Scotland Yard as he entered through the window but the burglar had already made off with his spoil when the police arrived. Scotland Yard announced the theft with two days' delay.

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