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going President and his Committee for the work done during the past year. As Mr. Burren had previously (reluctantly) agreed to serve one more year and the remaining committee members had also declared their willingness to continue in their respective offices, they were unanimously re-elected en bloc and with acclamation by all present.

The meeting ended with a lively auction, with Mr. E. M. Huber acting as auctioneer, which resulted in sales of almost £25, which in view of the small attendance was considered very satisfactory.

(EMH)

Changes at the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad: youth camp organiser resigns

Those who took part in the 1971 Hebden Bridge Landsgemeinde and recent Annual Assemblies of the Swiss Abroad know Mr. Tony Rihs, Editor of the "Weltenschweizer" and leader of the regular youth camps organised by the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. In the last issue of the "Weltenschweizer", Mr. Rihs takes leave of his readers after four years of enthusiastic service to the young Swiss abroad.

Before leaving a job which he has carried out with so much proficiency, Mr. Rihs, a former secondary school teacher, managed to realise two plans he had at heart: he made a film of the Youth Service which will doubtless be shown to Swiss people all over the world, and has sponsored the distribution of a certificate of citizenship. This keepsake will be handed by official Swiss representations abroad to all 20-year-old young Swiss. We wish Mr. Rihs every success in his new career.

The idea of air ticket reductions for pensioners

A reader from Blackpool wrote to us asking why Old Age Pensioners were not awarded reduced fares on air journeys to Switzerland. I asked this question to Mr. John Elliot, Public Relations Officer for Swissair in London.

He explained that Swissair, as a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) couldn't take the unilateral decision of cutting down its fares for a certain category of passengers. It had to fall in line with the other members of IATA, who would have to agree unanimously on

such a measure. Secondly, Swissair would have to obtain the agreement of the governments of those countries served by the routes with price reduction. For the Switzerland-Britain routes, the company would require the authorisation of the British Government.

Mr. Elliot said that the question of reducing fares for old people had occasionally been raised at IATA meetings but never discussed seriously. There are too many obstacles against their introduction, one being the vast variation in income of old people and another being the shifting definition of old age pensioners. Some people are pensioned at 60, others at 70. This also varies from country to country. Thus the idea of "pensioner" wouldn't be an adequate criteria to work on.

Compatriot awarded Freedom of the City of London

We should like to congratulate our compatriot Mr. J. Eusebio, who has recently been conferred the Freedom of the City of London. It is believed to be the first time that a Ticinese has been awarded such a distinction, a nice gesture after some 45 years foreign banking in the City, where Mr. Eusebio's father also served for about thirty years at "Diviani's" in Newgate Street. This restaurant had a famous "Coin Suisse" of which the "Swiss Observer's" founder, the late Paul Boehringer, was a founder member.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

A. Boog, 90

Mr. A. Boog, of 48 The Boulevard, Pevensey Bay, Sussex celebrated a great day on 22nd July, when he was 90 years old. We should like to congratulate him warmly and wish him and his family many more enjoyable years. May we include in our wishes Mrs. Boog, whose birthday will soon be celebrated. She will be 81 on 20th September.

Many of our readers remember Mr. Boog as President of the Union Helvetia in London. He came to this country in 1915 and worked in the catering trade all his life. He joined the Union Helvetia the next year and was Steward of the Club before becoming its President in 1945. He was at one time a member of the 1st August and Fete Suisse Committees, and also an enthusiastic gymnast.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Another proof of the longevity and vitality so often found among our compatriots of the London hotel trade was the Diamond Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F. Delaloye, of 15 Bartholomew Villas, London N.W.5, which they celebrated on 27th July. We should like to wish them many happy returns for the future.

Other anniversaries

Other readers have just celebrated their birthdays or will celebrate them in the coming summer months: Mr. J. Zimmermann was 82 on 21st July and Monsieur l'Ambassadeur B. de Fischer (Berne) was 71 on the 22nd. Mr. J. Vogel was 91 on 28th July and Mr. V. Bataillard will also have celebrated his 91st birthday on 2nd August. He and his wife will have been married for 53 years on 11th August and we should like to congratulate them doubly.

Mr. B. Truninger of Zurich will be 65 on 4th August and Dr. H. Rast 81 on 6th August. The same day, Mrs. A. Schmid, formerly of the Glendower Hotel, will have her birthday while her husband will be 86 on 2nd September.

Mrs. A. Bachofen will be 72 on 10th August and Mr. F. Good will reach the same age on 15th. Mr. and Mrs. H. Sauter will have been married for 51 years on 22nd August. Mr. G. Godet will be 81 on 28th August.

Mr. C. Fairweather will celebrate his 82nd birthday on 7th September and Mr. I. G. Michel will be 64 on the 8th of that month. Mr. P. B. Haberstich will be 73 on 9th and Mrs. Towers, 74 on 10th September. Last but not least, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Fuchs will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on 15th September.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

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