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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

POETICAL ACTIVITY IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

On Wednesday, 22nd March, a crowd of some 300 people converged on the Steephill Pleasure Gardens in Ventnor (Isle of Wight) to witness attempts by 37-year-old Mr. John Pavledis to get a home-made aeroplane flying by manpower alone.

Mr. Pavledis, of Belgrave Hotel, Belgrave Road, Ventnor, had designed the aircraft six years ago and taken three months to assemble the very simple contraption. Called the Air Hopper, it weighed 50lbs. It was made of bamboo covered in cloth painted with aircraft dope. It had a wing span of 21ft. and was 22ft. long. First time power was supposed to come from the large tail moving up and down. Mr. Pavledis, who weighs 9 stones, explained that he had planned to get the plane airborne by using his body to imitate the jerk action on a string as used to get a kite up. "If my idea works" he added, "I hope to carry on practising so that I can have a go at winning the £10,000 prize for the first person to do a one mile man-powered flight".

But unfortunately for Mr. Pavledis, the craft would not get off the ground. Having been given permission to use the Steephill Pleasure Gardens by the Ventnor Council subject to certain conditions, including public liability insurance of £100,000, he and his machine received a special police escort on the dawn journey to the site, where BBC and ITV camera crews, Radio Solent and many Press reporters were waiting for him.

Wearing a crash helmet and cheered by the crowd, Mr. Pavledis made five attempts at taking off. But his machine just ran down the banks and slowly tipped over on to a wing. A colleague, Mr. Rock, who weighs 11 stones, made two attempts himself. After the seven attempts between 1 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. there was a spontaneous clap and cheer for the intrepid aviator.

The following week, Mr. Pavledis wrote to the *Isle of Wight Mercury*: "May I thank my friends, the Council and others associated with my wild scheme? Reactions have varied; I get a teasing thump on the back or an embarrassed Hello! But many thousands of people mentioned Ventnor, and the newspapers and TV gave good publicity . . . Anyone want to buy an Air Hopper licence cheap?"

This delightful story was put in verse in the same edition of the *Mercury*. Under the large title of "AEROBATICS" the paper published a poem by our compatriot Mr. Walter

Zuber from Ventnor, glorifying the event. This is how it runs:

*Near Steephill Cove some Sport was trying,
To do a little solo flying.
A crowd of folks from nearby Ventnor,
Was there to see and cheer this venture.*

*There were a hundred there or more,
With Press reporter chaps galore.
A unit from the B.B.C.,
Was there to witness and to see
The Birdman from the Isle of Wight,
Preparing for his maiden flight.*

*A push, and off with final cheer,
But would this flipper take the air?
This silver winged Skyway Hopper,
Turned out to be a blooming flopper.
This great display so well attended,
A day of aerobatics ended.*

*The moral is Simplicity,
For Ventnor some Publicity.*

Well, there's certainly a lot going on in the Isle of Wight and Switzerland is well represented in its local activities! I owe the record of Mr. Pavledis' attempt (which incidentally will be repeated with an improved model!) to Mr. Paul Büchler, equally of Ventnor. In his letter, he writes: "Bei dieser Gelegenheit möchten wir, Insulaner, allen unseren Landsleuten in Grossbritannien freundliche Grüsse und schöne Sommerferien wünschen".

Thank you, Mr. Büchler. May *The Swiss Observer* reciprocate your good wishes on behalf of all its readers on the "mainland".

(PMB)

YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB: EARLY YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Severe weather conditions and illness sometimes curtail our efforts, as it happened for our monthly meeting of the 1st February, 1972. So more so do we appreciate it when our functions are not exposed to such additional and unwanted risks and it was a great satisfaction to all of us, when on the 10th March, 1972 we could assemble in good number at the former headquarters of the dissolved Bradford Swiss Club at the Foreign Circle, 10 Eldon Place in Bradford. There we were able to follow the unfolding of a special film sent to us through the kindness of our Embassy in London, the title being: "La Suisse". It was a most interesting document and pictures, words and music conveyed to us a most lively impression of Swiss activities in its many cultural, technical and political aspects. At the beginning

of the meeting we were welcomed by our President who informed us also on various matters of interest to the Club. At the end of the show, refreshments were served by the Ladies of the Committees and gradually we left quite satisfied with this friendly and interesting come-together.

A month later, on the 4th April, 1972, we met for our *Annual General Meeting* at the British Council House, St. Mark's Avenue, Leeds. Our President, after having welcomed members and friends, started the evening with a tape-recording he had obtained from Switzerland, known under the heading of "Forum Helvetica". The theme was: "Les Suisses et les Nations Unies" and we could follow, the few persons able to understand French, part of an expose given by prominent Swiss personalities, the pros and cons of the desirability of Switzerland entering the UNO, and various other aspects of this very important problem. A lively discussion followed and the opinion voiced that this type of broadcasting or communication, if meant for clubs and organisations established in Anglo-Saxon countries or spheres of influence, should be given in English.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Karl Kaegi, was then invited to give us the *Financial Report* covering the period from 1.4.1971 to 31.3.1972. Whilst there was a slight fall in the total of the club's assets, it was very gratifying to know that our various social events, which should be self-supporting, showed an increased credit-balance—a clear indication of their popularity and support given to them by members and friends. To put the club on a healthier financial position, it was agreed to increase our yearly subscriptions by 50%.

Mr. J. M. Lowe kindly accepted to act as an election-chairman and the following officers were elected:

President: Pr. J. P. Inebnit Vice-President: Mr. E. Berner; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. K. Kaegli; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. Lerch (members), Mrs. R. Leathly (general); Member: Mr. J. M. Lowe.

Our Vice-President moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Sandoz Products Limited in Horsforth for their continuing generosity, time and money, in printing our circulars, mentioning also another one who is contributing regularly in a similar way. In particular, thanks were expressed to Mrs. Pauline Hill of Sandoz, who actually did all the work.

Our President then informed us about the progress of the Landsgemeinde scenic window display for the Kramgasse in Berne and how he kept a constant and close contact with the

Hebden Bridge people who were constructing the "maquette".

Before concluding, he thanked all the members of the Committee for the hard and efficient work done during the past year, after which coffee and biscuits were served by the Ladies. If it had not been Easter Tuesday, we may have had a larger attendance; nevertheless it was a good meeting and much spade work was done. Everybody left with the hope of an early and happy "au revoir" and we had not to wait long for it, because already on Saturday, 29th April, 1972 we met again.

This was for our Annual Dinner and Social at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, and as expected, proved to be a very happy affair.

Some early-comers were able to meet our Vice-Consul, Mr. Leuenberger, in the foyer of the hotel, where he had taken residence for the weekend and who wanted to visit the beautiful city of York, the following day. Waiting for our President to arrive, we were able between one drink and another to have a friendly chat until the time arrived for us to move to the banqueting hall. As for the previous year we could admire some very lovely table and wall decorations and arrangements, giving the room a festive appearance, and the very attractive menu card augured well for what would eventually follow. On one side a long table was set to receive the many well chosen and attractive objects which would be raffled out later in the evening and relieve our worthy treasurer of some of his financial anxieties.

Before sitting down to what would be a lovely dinner, our Hon. Treasurer Mr. Karl Kaegi said grace, very different from the many the writer had heard in the past, and for many it was a real pleasure to listen to a completely new version of it. The wine card gave us the possibility of a good and varied choice and everybody took full advantage of it, and when coffee arrived we knew that the time had arrived for toasts and speeches, but this part of the programme was kept short and to

the point—a godsend to the speakers and conforming to the wish expressed by the organising committee.

Our President, Mr. J. Ph. Inebnit, asked the members and friends to join him in the toast to Her Majesty the Queen and combined it with a warm welcome to the guests, specially singling out our Vice-Consul, a few friends from Hebden Bridge who wanted to be with us this evening, Mrs. Pauline Hill who does much work for our club, and a few other ones. After our Vice-President had proposed the toast to Switzerland, our Vice-Consul Mr. Leuenberger stood up to bring us the greetings of our Consul General Mr. Born, who the same morning had left for Switzerland. He continued by telling us how happy he felt to be amongst us again and the warm applause which followed his words was proof enough that we all felt in the same way.

For the rest of the evening our Committee had prepared for us a full and varied programme, seeing to it that everybody would take a full part in it and in this they succeeded completely. The preparatory work was done by the same energetic and devoted nucleus, consisting in the main of the couples Lerch, Kaegi and Mrs. Leathly and to all of them we must be grateful for it. Dinner time was enlivened by a recorded and discreet music, laendlers, yodlers and other homeland tunes giving the right character to the evening. We were also very fortunate to have the help of our long standing and sincere friend Mr. Bertulett, better known as "Hans of Switzerland" who with his concertina and attractive voice did much to enliven an already friendly atmosphere. There was a never ending succession of events, starting with a snowball dance opened by the Vice-President and his wife, followed by barn dances, progressive dances, musical chairs, elimination dances, raffles, sing-song and trios producing, all intermingled by a tremendous variety of society games—some of a most exhilarating character, the latter ones most ably directed by Mrs. Kagi.

The great response given to all this was proof enough that our Com-

mittee had done a first class job, a cause of real satisfaction to them, an encouragement for further efforts in the days to come. The evening neared to its end only too quickly and gradually lines were thinning out, some leaving "a l'anglaise" but everybody happy to have spent a friendly and interesting evening, to be soon repeated in one or another way.

(E. Berner)

Dr. Victor Umbrecht in Bangladesh

Dr. Victor Umbrecht, Economic Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in London in 1953, has been appointed by Dr. Kurt Waldheim, General Secretary of the United Nations, as Chief Co-ordinator of UN Assistance to Bangladesh. Although his mission has not been delimited in any detail, Dr. Umbrecht will have the all important task of managing on site the resources in manpower and material flowing from UN and other organisations to the bereaved state of Bangladesh.

Dr. Umbrecht will be working in partnership with Sir Robert Jackson, who has been the UN's chief organiser in that area since the end of March.

Dr. Umbrecht's appointment was made known by a telegram addressed directly to the Federal Council by the UN General Secretary. He leaves his functions as a Ciba-Geigy Director and the chief foreign relations official of this giant concern. Dr. Umbrecht had previously held important World Bank functions in Africa and Australia, and has been UN financial advisor in the Congo. His innumerable contacts in UN and international circles have certainly influenced his appointment.

SOLIDARITY FUND

An example of how it works

Just how much did the self-help fund of the Swiss abroad do last year for those of our compatriots who lost their means of earning a living due

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to war, internal upheavals and coercive political measures? The following sums were paid out in 1971 to members of the Solidarity Fund who, thanks to this assistance, were able to make a new start.

Egypt, one case at Fr. 10,000.-; Algeria, one at Fr. 10,000.-, one at Fr. 20,000.- and one case at Fr. 30,000.-; Bolivia, one case at Fr. 10,000.-; Chile, one at Fr. 5,000.- and one case at Fr. 20,000.-; Sudan, one case at Fr. 10,000.- and one at Fr. 30,000.-. And all these payments, a total of Fr. 145,000.-, were made not as charitable assistance, but because the members of the Fund were entitled to these benefits.

We should like to take an example from the above cases. Mr. A. held a leading position in a company for many years. One fine day he was kidnapped by a political underground movement and released a few days later against a very considerable ransom. To have to pay such a sum was a big blow to Mr. A.'s finances. In addition, he did no longer feel safe and decided to leave the country. The amount to which he was entitled under the rules of the Solidarity Fund, enabled him to make a fresh start.

You see how well it paid him and any of the others amongst the nine cases referred to above, to have paid very small sums every year. The annual contributions will be refunded to a large extent—larger one-time payments in full. A small effort which may, however, have big consequences: in case of war or political strife, etc.,

one is handsomely insured. Is there any insurance company in the world which ever repays any insurance premium? Not that I know of.

I know what you will say—in Great Britain there is little likelihood of such troubles. Are you quite sure? Can we really presume to be so certain? If we are fortunate and are spared, then all we lose is interest on a comparatively small sum. But should we be hit, then we can thank our lucky stars that we joined the Fund in good time. No use waiting until the clouds begin to darken on the horizon; there is a statutory interval before any payments are made. Would it not be a shame if you missed the bus?

(MM)

Please apply to the Swiss Embassy in London or to one of the Consulates, or to the Secretariat of the Solidarity Fund, Schosshaldenstrasse 14, 3006 Berne, Switzerland, where you may get all relevant information. Don't wait please.

The New Swiss Holiday Pass

The new Swiss Holiday Pass introduced on 1st March, 1972 has met with an encouraging response from rail travellers.

The Swiss Holiday Pass is on sale at principal travel agents and branches of the Swiss National Tourist Office to residents of countries other than Switzerland only. It cannot be purchased in Switzerland.

The Swiss Holiday Pass entitles the holder to unlimited travel on the

principal rail (3,223 miles), boat (340 miles) and postal coach routes (2,053 miles) shown on a special map attached to the pass in addition to the purchase of unlimited numbers of reduced rate tickets on lines shown on a second map (195 miles).

Swiss Holiday Passes are issued for the following periods of validity and prices:

| | 2nd cl | 1st cl |
|---------|--------|--------|
| 8 days | £ 9.35 | £13.00 |
| 15 days | £13.00 | £18.15 |
| 1 month | £17.65 | £24.90 |

Air car ferry from Basle to Stansted Airport

A new air car ferry service from Basle to Stansted Airport will open on 14th May. Operated by British Air Ferries (B.A.F.), this service will rely on CL-44 transport aircraft, of the type used in cross channel services but in an enlarged and more powerful version with a capacity of over 26 tons. Flights to Switzerland leave on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at Stansted (30 miles north east of London) at 9 p.m., and arrive at Basle-Mulhouse at 10.45 p.m. Return flights take off at 0.15 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Arrival at Stansted is at 2 a.m.

One-way tariffs are in accordance with I.A.T.A. scales and amount to £16 for vehicles up to 12 feet long, £22.50 for vehicles up to 13 feet and £27.50 for vehicles up to 14 feet, £35 for vehicles up to 15 feet and £42.50

CITY SWISS CLUB

“Informal Dinner Dance”

FRIDAY, 16th JUNE, 1972
at The Thatched Barn,
Barnet By-Pass, Herts.

COCKTAILS AT 7.30 p.m.

DINNER AT 8 p.m.

TICKETS £3 · 25

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DANCING UNTIL 1 a.m.

for vehicles up to 16 feet long. These tariffs apply when there are at least two accompanying passengers. Cheapest return tickets for journeys between Sunday evening and Friday morning cost £33.75.

OPENINGS FOR APPRENTICES

The Uzwil-based company Gebrüder Bühler A.G. is currently looking for recruits for its apprenticeship schemes in Switzerland. The training schemes are of particular interest to British residents born of Swiss parents who would like job training in Switzerland.

Gebrüder Bühler is a leading Swiss engineering company with a group turnover of around 400 million Swiss francs. It employs about 5,500 people, 3,600 of them in Switzerland. Bühler has twelve affiliated companies abroad, and over 80 per cent of its production in Switzerland is exported.

The company is offering apprenticeships ranging from two to four years in length for young people of either sex in a wide variety of jobs, including machine mechanics, engineering draughtsmen, millwrights, toolmakers and assistant chemists. The schemes include testing of an applicant's vocational aptitude, health and accident insurance and physical training by a certified instructor.

In addition, the company undertakes to find suitable families for apprentices to stay with while they are away from home.

Bühler also offers further education to its established employees. There are company courses in electronic data processing, sales promotion and other subjects. And employees can get assistance in courses at higher technical evening schools and universities, with the further possibility of training in overseas subsidiary companies.

The company's address is: Bühler Brothers Ltd., Engineering Works, CH-9240 Uzwil, Switzerland.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Thursday, 25th May, 7 p.m. at Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. "A Scotsman looks at Switzerland". Talk with colour slides. Emphasis on the "Fête des Vignerons" in Vevey. All Swiss and their friends welcome.

JUNE MEETING to take place at the Swiss Embassy on Thursday, 22nd June at 7 p.m. All members of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Unione Ticinese are welcome. Dr. Philippe Garraux, Berne, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, speaks on "Coordination of schooling, a key problem of Switzerland".

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday, 23rd May, at the Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m. Card Evening and Dinner. Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

JUNE SUMMER DANCE: Please see advert.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY: Tuesday, 13th June at the Cholmondeley Room in the House of Lords from 6.30 to 8 p.m. Reception at the invitation of the President, the Earl of Selkirk. Tickets, costing £1.60 per head will include the cost of wine and other refreshments. Members may bring guests.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER: 18th June. Landsgemeinde of the Swiss of the North.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD: Berne, 25th-27th August.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting at Bisley, 21st May (Feldschiessen and Obligatorisch) and 11th June (same).

SWISS CLUB EDINBURGH: Social evening at 112 Hanover Street, at 8 p.m. on 30th May.

SWISS CHURCH: Sunday, 4th June at 11 a.m. Bilingual Service (Memorial Service for the late Dr. Olivier Béguin). The sermon will be given by the Rev. C. Reverdin, Geneva. The Church Assembly will take place following the Service, in turn to be followed by a communal lunch at the Church Hall.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNINO DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21, and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor. (2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme". During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.