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ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH

Leeds

On Tuesday, 5th December, 1973, members and some friends met at the British Council House in St. Mark's Avenue in Leeds, for what has now become a very lovely and friendly family gathering. Although the inclemency of the season, the ever present danger of fog, snow and ice, coupled with recrudescence of illnesses or occasional indifference, had prevented many from joining us; nevertheless, sufficient people turned up to assure the hard working committee a full success.

Entering the premises, well-equipped even for cooking and baking, we were struck by the lovely arrangement of tables richly decorated, the flags, lanterns and posters being prominent on ceilings, walls and tables, all supplied by one of our members. A lantern with a white cross on a red background illuminated the entrance-porch like an inviting beacon-fire, for those sometimes involved in a long and hazardous journey over high and windswept moors.

As for the past years our ladies had provided a most generous and varied buffet well laid out on a large table, and such typical Swiss specialities as "Weinachts-Guetzli" and "Apfel-Weihe" were well in evidence. There were, of course, a lot of other appetising items such as pies, salads, cakes and pastries, a beautiful "Kugelhopf" towering over everything.

Hot sausages were provided by the committee and soft drinks by our President. Everything to be followed by coffee or tea.

The whole evening was pervaded by a very happy and friendly atmosphere, even more so that our loyal friend Mr. Hans Brtulett of Elland (known to us as Hans of Switzerland), entertained us with his accomplished and entrancing concertina music, which many times accompanied his lively and sentimental home-songs, sometimes heartily joined in by a thankful audience. Particularly appreciated was a little duet-number given to us by his two young children.

Our President welcomed everybody present, informing us also of the good progress of our member Mr. Emilio Lanfranchi who was still in hospital recovering from a serious road accident and to whom we are sending our very good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery and that we may soon see him again amongst us.

It was an evening well to be remembered, and when it came eventually to its close we all set on our journeys home—near or far—taking the hope that it will not be too long to the next time.

Manchester

On Friday, 12th January, 1973, our Consul-General in Manchester, and Madame Born opened their lovely resi-

dence at 30 Manor Road in Bramhall, Cheshire, for a cocktail party for the purpose of saying "goodbye" to Mr. and Mrs. Simon, whose departure to London is now imminent.

A good number of the Swiss Club of Manchester and their friends flocked together, made immediately welcome by our hosts, and we were soon submerged by what we can only call the most gorgeous display of exquisite "canapes" or as the French say "amuse gueules", all prepared with great patience and art by Mrs. Born, accompanied by a neverending flow of a great variety of drinks. It was a true display of Swiss generosity and friendliness within a lively media of talk and communication, only to be interrupted by a short speech from our Consul who, in the name of us all, wished both Mr. and Mrs. B. Simon a happy journey to their new home and that the long life in front of them may reserve them much good health, happiness and satisfaction in their many activities.

Mr. Simon responded to it in his special and witty brand of talk, assuring us that he still may be with us at some of our future functions, and we shall most certainly hold him to his word.

It was evidently not easy for them to detach themselves from a long and happy chapter in their life and activities, but they will know that our thoughts will follow both of them wherever they will be. How appropriate are the words of the old song ". . . Ich hatte einen Kameraden, einen Besseren findst du nicht . . ."



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