

Forthcoming events

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very much reduced compared with previous occasions, was maintained and opened with a Lesson read from Luke 19:41-44 by Father Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Chaplain, who officiated and compered for the whole evening. After reading this passage on Christ's sadness at the future destruction of Jerusalem, Father Bossard said a prayer and invited the attendance to sing "Lobe den Herren", the words of which were available to all in handouts placed on everybody's seat.

The youth club of the Swiss church then led the gathering into singing three well-known songs in each of our national languages, words of which were also supplied. These songs were *Là-haut sur la montagne*, *Aprite le porte* and *Heisst ein Haus zum Schwizerdegen*.

A shortened version of the National Pact, which sealed the original Confederation of four cantons on 1st August, 1291 was then read. The text was as follows:

"In the Name of God, Amen! We, the people of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, considering the evil times that are upon us and the better to protect and defend ourselves, swear upon oath to aid and succour one another mutually with our deeds and counsel, with our strong right arms and earthly goods, with all our might and soul, against each and all who do us hurt and wrong. With one voice do we swear and promise not to tolerate in our valleys the dominion of foreign overlords. None of us shall do harm unto a comrade whether to his body or to his possessions. He amongst us who shall be judged blameworthy shall repair his wrongdoing. Should discord arise between Confederates then shall our elders foregather and act as mediators. This our Covenant is drawn up for the good of all and shall, with God's help, endure forever. Delivered in the year of Our Lord one thousand two hundred and ninety-one in the beginning of the month of August."

The prayer and presentation completed, it was our Ambassador's turn to deliver his traditional speech. Dr. Albert Weitnauer spoke briefly and most appropriately. Thanks to an efficient supervision of the back of the hall, his address was not troubled by a background of chatter and clatter of glasses as was the case two years ago. Dr. Weitnauer's address is reprinted in extenso in a separate column.

Following the Ambassador's speech, the Old Time Jungle Cats, a well-known amateur Dixieland band from home which the 1st August committee had had the ingenuity of getting hold of for a moderate remuneration, performed a series of fast and swinging numbers. The official programme was closed by Father Bossard, who, standing in front of the Youth Club with all cantonal flags displayed, led the attendance into singing that most glorious of national anthems which is apparently due for replacement: *Trittst im Morgenrot daher*.

During the long pause that

followed, chairs were moved to the side of the hall and people rushed to the cervelas counter and a well stocked bar. Having enjoyed a snack behind the stage, the Jungle Cats returned to action stations and launched into the second part of the programme that was to see unabated dancing until midnight.

The general consensus was that the band gloriously played in a style which has been gradually swamped by pop, soul music and various esoteric blends of modern jazz. Some had the opportunity to hear the Jungle Cats the following night as they performed at Slough's Holiday Inn Hotel during a Swiss evening which also included Fondue and Raclette for an inclusive £2.

P.M.B.

SPEECH BY
DR. ALBERT WEITNAUER,
SWISS AMBASSADOR

My dear compatriots,

You have come here to celebrate the birthday of Switzerland. That you should have turned up in such considerable numbers shows that you deem the occasion worth celebrating. I know full well, of course, that this is not just because of my speech which you will have to listen to for a few minutes, but also the whole programme of entertainment that is to follow, and I certainly haven't forgotten about the pleasure of dancing to the "Old Time Jungle Cats".

Still, the reason why we have gathered here on this day – the First of August – focuses everybody's attention on the country of Switzerland. With your permission I should like to reflect a little on the question whether patriotic occasions and, more than that, patriotism as such still fit into the pattern of modern life. It is true that the modern world has many problems to cope with, political, economic, social and others. On the other hand, the family of Western European nations and for that matter the Western world as a whole, is well organised, solidly structured. Therefore, it might seem, at first sight, superfluous to ruminate on the great deeds of our forefathers and even more, to emphasise the necessity for us, the Swiss of today, to concentrate on – or simply remember – the patriotic virtues which have made our country such a smooth-running, prosperous and peaceful entity, producing all we need, plenty of it and "hopefully", as many would say, more to come.

Let me express to you here my deep-felt conviction that this is not so. If Switzerland is a true democracy, if the rights of the citizens are fully safeguarded, the education of our young people at all levels taken good care of and the economic rewards of our own efforts guaranteed fully and completely – all this is only possible because Switzerland and the individual Swiss actively profess a certain political creed which is our real

"raison d'être". I might say the same thing about the Western world in general but to elaborate on this would really take too long. I should like, however, to stress the importance our country of residence, the United Kingdom, attaches to the fundamental values of Western political civilisation. This country's political institutions and the way they are practised in actual fact have always provoked the admiration of the whole world, and I should like you to know that I fully share these feelings.

Coming back to our own country, may I point out how indispensable it is – in my opinion – for the Swiss of today to maintain the great qualities that have made Switzerland what it is: discipline in both the private and the public sphere, willingness to work and to work hard, to learn and to learn much and never stop learning, readiness to play one's full part as a citizen by not only taking an interest in public affairs but also contributing actively one's own share to the manifold tasks that face Switzerland. You might think that I am describing to you an ideal human being no Swiss has ever borne any resemblance to in actual fact. That is not what I meant to do. The Swiss are no saints. They have always had a very keen feeling for where their interests lie. But we had in the past – and still have in the present, I am sure – political instincts just as keen, an awareness just as great, to make us grasp the simple truth that for everything in this world we have to pay a price. Nothing should be taken for granted, nothing is just a matter of course. If I have been successful in driving home just this one point – that our country can only remain what it was and is today through the continued effort of all of us – I shall be quite content. But this effort is of a political character, and that is why I say that true patriotism is not just obsolete today. It has nothing to do with smugness, self-satisfaction or a foolish feeling of superiority. It has everything to do with a feeling of responsibility and a willingness to forge ahead and never relent in that supreme endeavour to keep our country a going concern.

I hope that this has not been an overdose of serious talk. I also hope that I have been understood as I sincerely wished to be understood. But let the programme now take over from me and lead you into a most enjoyable evening.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWISS CHURCH: Sunday, 15th September, 11.15 a.m. Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, WC2, Bilingual and Ecumenical Service on the occasion of the Federal Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer and to celebrate the *Golden Jubilee* of the German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. Next shoots on 1st September, 8th September, 6th October and 20th October.

SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)
Friday, 6th September, 7.00 p.m.
for 7.30 p.m., Dinner at the Old
Palace, Hatfield Park, Hatfield,
Herts. For more details, please call
Mr. Juerg Schmid, Swiss National
Tourist Office (01-734 1921).

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE:
Thursday, 19th September, 7 p.m.
at Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize
Grove, NW3, OPEN MEETING.
Report on Assembly of the Swiss
Abroad in Neuchatel and General
Discussion.

SWISS CHURCH BAZAAR, Saturday,
2nd November. Opens at Central
Hall, Westminster, at noon.

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday, 17th
September, 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.
Dorchester Hotel (Stanhope Suite).
Dinner followed by card evening.
(On Tuesday, 15th October: Dinner
with guest speaker).

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Two of our valued readers will
celebrate their 75th birthdays shortly:
Mr. P. B. Haberstick, of Magnolia
Cottage, Mill Lane, Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon, on 9th September, and Mr. M.
Rothlisberger, of 89, Lawrie Park
Gardens, London, SE26, on 25th
September.

Mr. C. Fairweather will be 84 on
7th September, and Mr. J. G. Michel 66
on 8th September. Mrs. C. Burren has her
birthday on 9th, and Mrs. N. Towers will
be 76 on 10th of the month. Mr. W. B.
Sigerist (Territet, Vaud) will be 83 on
23rd September. The following day, Mr.
and Mrs. H. Humbel will have their 36th
wedding anniversary. On 1st October, Mr.
O. Rohn will be 68, and Mr. W. Burren
will be 67 on 4th October. Mr. H.
Humbel will have his birthday on 5th
(69) and Mrs. H. Jenne (Andeer, Grisons)
on 9th October.

Congratulations and best wishes all
round!

OBITUARY

All those connected with the
French-speaking Swiss parish in London
will be shocked to learn of the death of
its organist for over fifteen years: *Mr.
Reginald Paul.* Mr. Paul died on

Thursday, 8th August of a heart attack
which followed a first attack suffered
about three weeks before. Mr. Paul, who
was 80, had been a highly-successful
piano teacher and a specialist in
hymnology. All parishioners of the Swiss
Church remember him as a very kind and
affable man whose disappearance will
cause problems for the ordinance of
weekly services. We should like to express
our sympathy to his widow and children.

We have also been told of the
death, last February in Geneva, of *Mrs.
Emilie E. Smith-Jaccard.* Hailing from St.
Croix, Vaud, Mrs. Smith-Jaccard lived at
Wood-Norton, Norfolk. She was nearly
one hundred years old at her death. She
had married an English Director of
Agriculture in East Bengal, India and had
remained firmly attached to her Swiss
nationality during all these years. We
should like to extend our condolences to
her daughter and family.

MORE SWISS EVENTS

National Bread Exhibition at Attiswil

Travellers going from Olten to
Solothurn shouldn't miss a short
stop-over at the village of Attiswil. A
remarkable exhibition of Swiss bread is
being held in its local museum till the end
of September. Different sorts of cereals,
utensils and bread from all over the
country are presently on show there. The
exhibition is open every Sunday from
2-5 p.m. For visiting the exhibition at
another time, one should phone its
initiator, Mr. Hohl, (tel. 065/9 79 43), or
call in at the Gasser bakery opposite.

WELFARE OFFICE

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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment

55th SWISS NATIONAL FAIR IN LAUSANNE

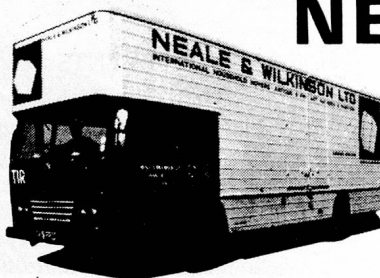
7th to 22nd September, 1974

The 55th Lausanne National Fair,
or Swiss Comptoir as it is known locally,
will be opening its gates from 7th to 22nd
September, 1974, placing at the disposal
of its 2,500 national exhibitors and its
three foreign guests of honour —
Hungary, Ecuador and Zaire — all the
premises and facilities of the Palais de
Beaulieu complex. More than ever, the
Lausanne National Fair will be seen to be
open to new ideas and international
exchanges.

In each of its big main sectors —
agriculture, industry, trade and craftwork
— the emphasis will be placed on the new
features and improvements introduced
each year by Swiss manufacturers and
producers, confirming the reputation of
Swiss products. In addition, the leading
trade associations will illustrate for the
public the economic problems of the day
and the evolution of the situation by
means of thematic exhibitions featuring,
for example, Switzerland's nuclear energy
equipment, as well as the problems facing
Switzerland's agriculture in its relations
with EEC.

In the guest of honour pavilions,
Hungary will present an official
exhibition in co-operation with the
largest exporting firms in the country,
whose industrial reconversion is in full
swing. Ecuador will send to Lausanne the
best products of its foodstuffs industries,
its craftwork and its new industries, in a
thematic display within the context of its
five-year development plan. Zaire, in an
extremely spectacular display will give a
complete picture of its mining resources,
its traditional and modern activities, as
well as its cultural life, illustrated by an
art exhibition and performances by
actors, dancers and musicians.

Important national and foreign
days will also be held during the fortnight
of the Lausanne Fair — a traditional part
of Swiss life and a link between
Switzerland and its trade partners.



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