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The Swiss Observer

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWISS COLONY IN THE U.K.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I, by and large, enjoy reading the
Swiss Observer, however, I would
appreciate it, if the emphasis would be a
little less on business and money and a
little more on Culture (Swiss Culture), for
example I have just seen an excellent film
at the NFT by a Swiss (Konfrontation).

Also, in a recent issue, I found it
rather depressing to read (a) how many
foreigners (with money) live in
Switzerland, (b) with what pride one
talks about the building of yet more
"Autobahnen", when it is a disaster how
this small country is being ruined by
roads and cars, (c) the lack of mentioning
the problem of "Arbeitslosigkeit der
Schweizer", quite a problem in
Switzerland, especially as it is hitting the
apprentices and school-leavers now.

E. Tober, Mrs.,
134 Woodwarde Road,
London, SE22.

Sir,

I saw in the December number of
the Swiss Observer an advertisement by
the Swiss Welfare Office for Young
People, requiring a Social worker, with a
good knowledge of German, French and
English.

Am I to take it that we Ticinesi are
considered such third class citizens of the
Confederation of Elvetica, that no
provision need be made for our young
people in need of help in a strange
country?

We may be only one Canton, but
we are Swiss for all that, and should be
treated with equal respect and
consideration as all the other Cantons.

This biased slant has struck me time
and again, especially when I have been to
my home village, where the arrogance of
some of the visitors from other parts of
Switzerland have been to say the least
insulting.

Yole Rossi Bowman,
7 Hodford Road,
London NW11 8NL.

CAPTION FOR THE FRONT PAGE

Langlauf — cross-country ski-ing —
is an import from Scandinavia
which is proving increasingly
popular in Switzerland. Ski-ing
conditions in our various resorts are
reported to be good so perhaps
some of us will go and join those
lucky folk in the picture.

Miss Rossi Bowman was obviously
touched on a raw spot by the
advertisement she is complaining about.
May I assure her that the policy of this
publication is to treat all the Swiss
National languages as equal. May she be
comforted by the fact that we carry a
regular column in Italian?

WGS

CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES

We wish to apologise for a number
of errors that appeared in the report on
Mr. Charles Glauser's talk at the Nouvelle
Société Helvétique on "The Work of a
Consul". The audience was, of course,
not an "invited one" but consisted of
members and friends of the Society
whose President (not Secretary) Mrs.
Mariann Meier welcomed Mr. Porret (not
Borret) one of the founder members of
the NSH in 1916 (not 1926).

* * *

On page 28 of the Christmas issue
of the Swiss Observer, we published a
contribution by Uli Stefan "Christmas
has a Message". Inadvertently, his name
was left out, and we apologise to the Rev.
Stefan for this omission.

* * *

Furthermore, we have been asked
by Dr. Alfred Aebi whose article on Swiss
Defence appeared in the September and
October issues, to add the following
passage which had been left out, in error;
page 27 of the November issue; the text
should read as follows, otherwise the
whole meaning of that paragraph is
distorted.

"On the minus side:

- The original raison d'être of Swiss
neutrality — the elimination of
great power rivalry over a
strategically important area — has
lost most of its significance today.
- The nature of the East West
conflict with Switzerland being a
member of the Western community
of nations with all its implications

for the pursuit of a credible neutral policy.

- The more difficult military situation of smaller states in general as well as the total nature of war.
- The high vulnerability of the country.
- The discrediting of neutrality through neutralism.

"On the positive side:

- Deterrence at the strategic level has made a nuclear war less likely, making conventional weapons still relevant. As a result of this development, Switzerland's defence preparations should be sufficient to prevent a political and military vacuum in central Europe.
- Switzerland would probably not become the lone victim of aggression by a great power but would more likely be involved in a general conflict only. It is also conceivable that it may again avoid involvement in a future conflict.
- Even if a small state like Switzerland cannot really influence the international political constellation, it can set against it the continuity of its own foreign policy and through that create at least one factor of stability and security.
- Swiss neutrality has been and still is of advantage to other states."

Many apologies!

OBITUARIES

ALBERT HENRI LOUIS CUANY

Albert Henri Louis Cuany died on 12th December, 1975. He was born in Neuchâtel on 29th June, 1891, the son of Louis Daniel Cuany and Emma, née Benninger. He was a member of the hotel and catering profession having been an apprentice cook in Geneva, served in the P & O Steamship Line as chef – including service in 1914-16, and in 1917 joined the Caledonian Railway Hotels as Assistant-Superintendent at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. He served with distinction for 44 years in the group of hotels which later became part of the British Railways Hotels Executive and was Manager of the Central Hotel, Glasgow, the Midland Hotel, Manchester, and Euston Hotel, London. From 1957-61 as Assistant for Special Duties he organised an Hotel School for the Executive at New Lodge, Windsor. His retirement years were spent at Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks. A much-loved resident of the United Kingdom for most of his life, he is survived by his wife, Lilian Florence Cuany, and one daughter Jennifer May (Mrs. Michael Shapiro) both now of Sparkill, New York; by one son, Robin Louis Cuany, Ph.D., of Fort Collins,

Colorado; and by his only sister, Hélène Emma Cuany, of St. Léger, Ct. Vaud.

HELENA JENNE

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Helena Jenne who died at an old people's home in Chur a few weeks ago. She was a member of the Simmen Family well known in the Grisons. She had no easy childhood as her mother died very young, and the children were brought up by an uncle. After spending some time in America, she settled in England. At one stage, she was Matron at the Swiss Home for Old People at 31 Conway Street, the present address of the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare Office for Young People. Social work has always interested her.

Then she married a banker, Mr. Gustave Jenne, a well-known member in the Swiss community in London, in the Swiss Mercantile Society where Mrs. Jenne, too, played a prominent part, the Swiss Church and the City Swiss Club. After his death, she retired to her native Grisons and spent a number of years at Andeer where, once again, she was very active. A couple of years ago, she gave up her home and moved to Chur.

We, her friends, shall remember her with affection, as we do her late husband.

MM

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The following readers will be celebrating their birthdays in February: Mrs. N. Burri on 6th, Mr. Ralph Maag on 17th and Mrs. E. Jamieson on the 20th of the month (1900). Mr. J. W. Bonjour will be 77 on 23rd and the former Swiss Ambassador Dr. Armin Daeniker (Berne) 78 on 24th February.

For a change, Mr. F. Gerber will be able to celebrate his birthday on the proper day – 29th February, when he will be 84.

Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Boehringer will have their 30th wedding anniversary on 2nd February.

To all these readers and others who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming month, we send congratulations and best wishes.

Sylvia Y. Streit, Secretary of the First of August Committee, and elder daughter of the late Alice and Fred Streit, would like her many friends in the Swiss colony to learn the happy news of her marriage to Michael H. W. Jones, on Saturday, 24th January, at Sheen Register Office. We add our best wishes.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY

ADOLPHE SCHMID IS 90!

On 1st February, Mr. Adolphe Schmid of the Norfolk Court Hotel, 20 Norfolk Square, Hyde Park, London W2, will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

Son of a hotel keeper, he was born at Eiken, Fricktal, Canton Aargau and

later attended the *Bezirksschule* Frick. He worked as *chef garde manger* at the Hôtel Beau Rivage at Ouchy, after having had a cook's apprenticeship – for which one paid in those days – at the Hôtel de France in Lausanne. He cooked for 200 people daily, amongst them the Grand Duke of Baden.

Adolphe Schmid came to London in 1907 after having done his military service in the *Rekrutenschule*. His first job was as chef at Felixstowe where he earned the princely wage of 25/- a week. It was hard to find work in London, but he found a job at the Lancaster Gate Hotel and later at Queen's near Crystal Palace. In his spare time, he sparred with the International Canadian Wrestling Team.

In 1910, he went to Ireland and worked at the Imperial in Cork, and later at the famous Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. Whilst in Cork, he became well acquainted with Lord Kitchener.

He returned to London in 1912 and held the position as head chef at the Carlton, with 40 chefs under him. When working at the Bucklands Hotel, he served Lord Roberts of Boer War fame.

When war broke out, Adolphe Schmid was amongst the 1,050 Swiss who went back to Switzerland where he joined the infantry battalion 58 as a fusilier. At the frontier where he served, he was the only one to have a camera, and so he had