

# Letter to the editor

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# The Swiss Observer

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am wondering if you could please  
help me?

Having had friends in Switzerland  
since 1963 and working there myself in  
1971, I would so like to write as a "Pen  
Friend" if possible to another Female in  
her 30's. Married or single, with or  
without a family. I am married with  
twin girls of 20 months.

I mostly know the Interlaken -  
Adelboden area and have spent many  
holidays in the beautiful country!

Please could you put me in touch  
with any such organisation, or perhaps  
give me an address to write too.

Thank you so much for your kind  
attention to the same.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. Susan Rickett,  
Flat 5, 93 St. James's Road,  
Sutton, Surrey.

Sir,

I have recently been in touch with a  
number of folk who share my hobby-  
interest, the modelling of Swiss railways.  
Reading the publications on this subject  
here in Britain, I came to the conclusion  
that there must be a number of us with  
this interest, and the advertisements for  
Swiss items stocked by model shops  
seemed to bear this out. So far, the Model  
Railway Constructor, a magazine which  
gives regular cover to continental models,  
has published a letter from me, and  
already over a dozen fellow-enthusiasts  
have been in touch. Their enthusiasm has  
encouraged me to put out a brief  
duplicated newsletter for them, and  
already I have received several items for  
the next issue.

I write, therefore, to ask you if you  
would be so kind as to make mention of  
our project in the Swiss Observer in the  
hope that some of your readers may also  
be interested, and wish to join us.

Rev. Geraint Edwards,  
19 Rubislaw Den South,  
Aberdeen AB2 6BD

Over to you, readers - Editor

## LETTING THOUGHTS WANDER

Dear Readers, Dear Compatriots,

At this time when we once again celebrate  
our National Holiday, I make no apologies for  
imparting a distinctly patriot flavour into this  
issue. I think it right that I should - if only  
because I consider the man who said  
"patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel"  
was probably a scoundrel himself.

It is always difficult to set down original  
thoughts on this occasion and, anyway, Father  
Paul Bossard has done that so ably elsewhere in  
this issue. So let us attempt to look briefly at  
other people's patriotism because patriotism  
does exist everywhere to a greater or lesser  
degree.

It is all too easy to sneer at the patriotic  
sentiment in another country. It seems almost  
natural to dismiss it out of hand - "it's not real  
patriotism - only WE have that." Or - "what  
have THEY got to be patriotic about?" or -  
worst of all - we regard other people's  
patriotism as chauvinism. To do that makes a  
chauvinist of that very patriot.

During the last two years your editor has  
undertaken extensive business trips to eastern

and western Europe and the United States of  
America. It was in America that I detected a  
real resistance towards patriotism - in a  
country where such sentiments are normally  
held sacred. How very sad.

The reasons are, however, not difficult to  
find. During the past few years the U.S.A. has  
suffered some great traumas - not the least of  
which were humiliation in Vietnam, growing  
urban and racial problems and a fall in the value  
of the Dollar. All pretty new experiences to our  
American friends.

Happily, the U.S. is a resilient society and  
these rather negative and self-destructive  
feelings are once again being replaced by an  
upsurge of pride in the homeland's good points  
and achievements - of which there are many.

With this in mind can we not be even more  
thankful that unpleasant forces have not  
succeeded in undermining our proper thoughts  
of our homeland - be it where it may. Let us  
never sneer at others - they have feelings too.  
The same should apply to our private lives!

With best greetings on this, our day,  
George Sommer.

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## On the front page

August 1st in Switzerland is the day to  
carry on many good old traditions. This  
impressive military parade might well be  
typical of many held over the land.