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# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## WILLI RENZ 80

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 80th birthday on 2nd January of **Mr. Willi Renz**, of 7 The Highway, Sutton, Surrey. He was born in St. Gall where he had his schooling, followed by a period with a bank. He then studied economics in St. Gall where he graduated at the Institute of Economic and Social Sciences. Willi Renz arrived in Britain in 1922. After studying at the London School of Economics, he worked at some banks and finally joined Ham-bros Bank Ltd., where he became Manager, as well as Director of Mocatta & Goldsmid, Bullion Brokers.

He has been a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society since 1923 and of the City Swiss Club since 1945. He joined the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in the early 'thirties and

was instrumental in re-vitalising it after the war. He became its President in May, 1957, and he held that office with great distinction for four years. He is an Honorary Member of the Society and still attends Council meetings.

He and his wife Claire are well known in the Swiss Community. They have a daughter and three grandchildren.

In the Swiss Army, he was a First Lieutenant.

Ten years ago hope was expressed in these columns that he should "keep his good health and youthful appearance and enjoy his many cultural interests for many years to come". We are glad to say that he has done so and we wish him an enjoyable birthday and many happy returns of the day.

M.M.

•Continued on next page

**In this, the last Christmas message to our Colony I will be writing from the Editor's chair, I would like to thank my compatriots, readers of and subscribers and contributors to the "Swiss Observer", for all their help in making my four years as Editor such good years, interesting years and exciting years.**

**Yes, they really have been all these things — and more. I have been privileged to meet so many of our friends in the Colony, in many cases forging links which will endure. I have also been privileged to be part of many exciting developments in the "Swiss Observer" — its change from fortnightly to monthly publication, the adoption of a new and modern typeface, the use of full colour covers (thanks to the Swiss National Tourist Office) and many others.**

**Some of you have been kind enough to write and tell us that you like the efforts being made on your behalf, and we are deeply grateful for your interest. Indeed, we are also grateful to those readers who have told us — sometimes in no uncertain terms — that they are less happy with their paper. Constructive criticism is not only welcome but useful, so more power to your pens.**

**But Christmas and New Year are not only times for looking back. They are, perhaps, much more times for looking forward, times for making resolutions, times to observe, listen and think. What we think about rather depends on our circumstances. If we are separated from our loved ones our thoughts will naturally turn in that direction. But even if we are not separated from them perhaps it is of them that we should be thinking anyway — have we not taken them for granted or harboured petty grievances about them? And not only with our nearest and dearest but also with our neighbour — someone Paul Bossard defines so very ably in his message.**

**Still looking ahead, our new editor will, hopefully, be picking up the threads sometime in the New Year. His or her task will not be easy but, as I well know from personal experience, he or she will have the strength of your support to smooth the path. And this, in my opinion, is what being a member of a community is all about.**

**With very best fraternal regards to you all.**

George Sommer



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MINISTER: Pfarrer Urs Steiner, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE, Tel. 01-340 9740.

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

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## APOLOGY

In our November edition we published a photograph of the Swiss tenor Nöel Bach. The caption, however, incorrectly described Mr. Bach as Etienne Barillier. We apologise to all concerned for this error.

## •From page 28

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 70th birthday on 2nd January of **Mr. Carl Nater**, of "Guardamunt", 7500 St. Moritz. As his present address indicates, he hails from the Grisons. He was a champion skier in his young days, particularly ski-jumping, and an expert mountaineer. Even this autumn he went out to do climbing in the Himalayas.

He frequently comes to London where he may always be sure of a warm welcome by his friends. He was a Partner and Director in the famous jewellers Cartiers of Bond Street, and he was an expert on gems. He is a member of the City Swiss Club and was its President from 1967 to 1969. He belonged to the Swiss Economic Council and was a member of the Swiss *Observer* Advisory Council.

We extend best wishes for an enjoyable birthday with his family and many happy returns of it.

We have great pleasure in announcing the 85th birthday on 4th January of **Mr. E. P. Locher**, of 33 Melrose Avenue, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19, and the 65th birthday on 16th January of **Mr. John M. Bader**, of 25 Charmouth Court, Charmouth Road, St. Albans, Herts.

**Alfred (Fred) Sommer**, who this year celebrates 50 years living in London, was 80 on 2nd December. Fred, who is known as a stickler for hard work, sold his business in North-West London five years ago, but only retired from full-time work earlier this year. He now spends his time on home improvements, singing in two choirs, and writing his memoirs – beginning at his birth in Basle, childhood in Winterthur, a spell in the Far East, and on through his arrival in Britain in 1928. His English wife,

Mary, died in 1975, a year before their golden wedding anniversary.

Fred's daughter and two sons, as well as his many relatives and friends, wish him all the best on his four score years, and many happy returns.

Mrs. L. Moehr will have her birthday on 12th January. Three birthdays will be celebrated on 14th January: that of Mrs. D. Keller, and of the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Ernesto Thalmann, as well as of Mr. J. P. Christen (Basle). Consul J.

Keller will have his birthday on 16th of the month. Mrs. A. Chappuis will celebrate her birthday on 24th and Mrs. I. Weist will be 83 on 29th January.

The following couples will celebrate their wedding anniversaries: on 23rd January, Monsieur and Madame E. Thalmann (36), and on 27th, Mr. and Mrs. G. Eusebio (39).

Congratulations and best wishes to all and many happy returns!

## OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Mr. A. Boog**, of 48 The Boulevard, Pevensey Bay, Sussex. He died on 3rd November at the age of 96. He came to this country in 1915 and worked in the catering trade all his life. He joined the Union

Helvetia in 1916 and was Steward of the Club before becoming its President in 1945. He was at one time a member of the First of August Committee and also an enthusiastic gymnast.

We express our sincere sympathy to his family.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Entries for the November 1978 Competition were of a very high standard and certainly set the panel of Judges a difficult task. However, out of the entries submitted, the following have been adjudged the best and most practical.

Congratulations to the Winners:-

**1st PRIZE £100:** Lt. Cdr. (rtd) Harold Lipscombe of Edinburgh who is a retired Naval Officer, married to a Swiss and working in Public Relations. He has travelled extensively throughout Switzerland and has edited several magazines.

**10 PRIZES of £10:** Mr A. M. Apostol of Vence, France Mr. Walter Bertschinger of Wimbledon Mrs. Regula Dufour of Nailsea, Bristol Mrs. Joy Frey of Stratford-upon-Avon Mrs. A. M. Hendy of Leatherhead Miss J. Houlmann of Formby, Merseyside Mrs. Sylvia Y. Jones of Twickenham Mr. Michael Ryan of London, N.1. Mr. Peter Slater of West Lothian Mrs. Suzanne Tiburtius-Iseli of Broadstairs.

The Swiss *Observer* Advisory Council is grateful to all those readers who participated in the *Swiss Observer* Competition, the views and suggestions submitted will be most helpful in formulating future Editorial and Advertising Policy.

## CAN YOU HELP THIS LAD?

A 19-year-old Swiss boy who will be attending the Hotel School in Lausanne in 1980 wants to spend about six months in London from April 1979 in order to improve his English. By the time he arrives he will have his commercial school diploma.

He desperately needs a job for the duration of his stay, a job that will pay him enough to enable him to keep body and soul together while allowing him enough free time in the evenings to strenuously pursue his English studies. Ideally he would like to work in an hotel (lift boy, reception assistant, porter, kitchen hand) — you

name it — he'll do it but, please, remember he is a human being. A living-in post would perhaps be ideal but this is not a prerequisite. Because the young man's study activities will necessarily be in the London area any offers should ideally be from areas within at least reasonable commuting distance.

If you think you could use this young man's talents (he speaks and writes fluent German and French) please contact the editor of *The Swiss Observer* direct on 01-892 5920 or write to him at 43, Hartington Road, Twickenham, Middx TW1 3EL.

## WANTED

SWISS WELFARE OFFICE for young people and Swiss Benevolent Society

are looking for a Swiss Social Worker able to do relief work — partly during School holidays.

For information please ring: Mrs. M. Lyster 387 3608 or Mrs. A. R. Sharp 387 2173.