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OBITUARY

WALTER SCHEDLER

On the cold and windy afternoon of 11th December, a large congregation assembled at the West Chapel of Golders Green Crematorium to take leave of Walter Schedler who had died in the evening of the fourth of the month. His wife Wera, the two daughters Ruth and Lisa and their families were joined by many friends, former colleagues and representatives of the Swiss Embassy and Swiss organisations. The Rev. Urs Steiner of the Swiss Church officiated. He read a short biography in English and gave a comforting sermon in Swiss. He used as it's theme Wera and Walter Schedler's wedding text "*Siehe, ich sende meinen Engel vor Dir her, Dich zu behüten auf dem Wege und Dich an die Stätte zu bringen, die ich bestimmt habe*". He showed how much these words had meant to the devoted couple and how great the consolation will be to those left behind now that Walter has departed. It has been and will be the red thread giving life a meaningful direction, and it shows that death is not the last word. To the soothing strains of Elgar's *Nimrod*, the congregation followed the family to the gardens to offer Wera Schedler, the daughters, sons-in-law and five grandchildren condolences and good wishes. Mrs Schedler and her family appreciate all the understanding help they have received, the kind visits and the many sympathetic letters and messages which have arrived at 58 Meadway, NW11.

Walter Schedler was born in Basle on 24th May, 1904, citizen of Basle and Krummenau (SG). He went to school in Basle until he was 12. His father had taken over the management of the Clayton Aniline Company in Manchester (where he later became Hon. Swiss Consul) at the outbreak of the first world war, for the previous German manager had been interned. In 1916, after a very arduous journey through France, his wife and the two sons joined him in England.

Walter finished his education at Manchester Grammar School and then returned to Switzerland for further studies in Geneva and at Geigy's in Basle where he completed his commercial apprenticeship. At that time, he met his future wife, but they did not get married until 1935, by which time he was employed by the Swiss Bank Corporation in London. Together

they built up a happy home for their two daughters in the Hampstead Garden Suburb. He remained with the Swiss Bank in a responsible position up to his retirement in 1969.

Walter Schedler was quietly active in the Swiss community. He joined the Swiss Mercantile Society in 1938 and was a respected member of the General Purposes Committee up to his death. He had always been a loyal supporter of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and he was one of a few members who, when the Society was near collapse after the war, determinedly brought it back to life. He was still a valued Council member when he died. He remained deeply attached to his native town of Basle.

One of his interests was model railways, and to drive his car was

more than a necessity — it was a most pleasurable activity. He greatly liked music, and one of his favourite haunts in London was the National Portrait Gallery. Above all, he loved peace and quiet and his home made so comfortable by his dedicated wife. It was there that he died unexpectedly at the age of 75½, although his health had gradually been declining.

Walter Schedler will be remembered by many for his even temper, and his delightful sense of humour, a special brand made up of a dry St. Galler jocularly, the subtle Basler wit and the British gift for puns. But above all, his friends will remember him for his sense of duty, his unpretentious kindness and unfailing loyalty. Once a friend — always a friend, and that will live on in his wife and family.

Mariann Meier

STOP PRESS

CHANGES AT THE SWISS EMBASSY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR

Our new Ambassadeur Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary is **Monsieur Claude CAILLAT**, who arrived in London in January, coming from Brussels where he had been Head of the Swiss Mission to the European Commission in Brussels (since 1974). A full introduction interview will appear in a subse-

quent issue of the *Swiss Observer*.

Monsieur Charles GLAUSER has been promoted to Consul General.

Monsieur Jean-Pierre ZEHN- DER has been replaced in his office as Economic and Labour Counsellor by **Dr. Marino BALDI**, formerly with the Federal Office of Foreign Economic Affairs in Berne.

Monsieur Zehnder has been appointed Minister representing Switzerland in the European Commission in Brussels.

In memoriam

On 28th December, 1979, **Carl Alexander Aeschimann** died peacefully in his sleep at his home, Oriana Lodge, Les Fontenelles, Forest, Guernsey, C.I., in his 88th year.

His wife, Dorothy (née Hoss) passed away before him.

He leaves one daughter, Dorothea Aeschimann.

The Funeral Service was held at the Parish Church of S.Marguerite de la Forêt, on 2nd January. (No letters, please.)

Former president of the Société des Secours Mutuels and conductor of the Swiss Accordeon Club **Adolphe Louis GANDON** died peacefully at

home, 53 Friars Place Lane, London W.3, on 25th December, 1979, in his 70th year.

We also have to inform you with deep regret of the death of **Klara Johanna LAMONT-Schmidiger** in December, born 1885 in Brienz. She came to Scotland in 1908 to learn English and married James Lamont in 1909. She was the mother of five sons and one daughter.

During her married life she lived in Scotland, America and England. She visited her native country on many occasions and did not forget her "Schwyzerdütsch".

We extend our most sincere condolences to the families of the deceased.