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Citizenship campaign

We have given information on several occasions regarding the development of the work in this field. As you will be able to see from the following article – it was written by the parliamentary correspondent of the «Journal de Genève», Mr Jean-Pierre Gattoni, and was published in August 1980 – the campaign on citizenship started some three years ago is on the best way to success.

We cannot, however, be jubilant too soon. Even though the parliamentary initiative by the President of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, Dr. Alfred Weber, (called «Initiative Weber») has found agreement with the parliamentary commission of the National Council, numerous obstacles have still to

be overcome. The most important are the acceptance by Parliament and the plebiscite of the electorate and the Cantons, which will probably take place in three to four years. The acceptance by the above-mentioned commission is an important step forward, in parts due no doubt to the many interventions by you, the Swiss abroad. We shall continue to inform you in these pages on the progress of parliamentary activities in this matter. In due course, probably in the final phase, we shall ask for your cooperation again. Please fill in already now the form obtainable from the Embassy or Consulate where you are registered, which will entitle you to take part in federal plebiscites and elections.

Lucien Paillard

Draft for a constitutional change:

Citizenship rights: the same law for all children of Swiss mothers?

It is only a question of time: Once Parliament is in agreement and – in a second phase – electorate and Cantons accept it, there will in future be no obstacle for children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers to obtaining Swiss citizenship. Subsequent to the parliamentary «Initiative Weber», a commission of the National Council has presented a draft for a constitutional change, which gives equal rights to the child of a Swiss woman and to that of a Swiss man, regardless of the origin of the mother or the place of residence at the time of birth. The initiative of the former National Councillor Weber was handed in on 23rd March 1979. He was, however, not the only one who wanted to improve the status of children born

to a foreign father and a Swiss mother. Quite a few parliamentarians treated this problem on postulates and motions. Let us mention the postulates Luder (1972) and Felber (1977), the motion Christinat (1978) and the initiative brought in by the Canton of Geneva eight years ago. Finally, the Council of Europe recommended its members to eliminate every discrimination between man and woman (and subsequently between their children) in this field.

The commission of the National Council chaired by Mr Paul Zbinden (Fribourg) stated that the present citizenship law regarding transmission of citizenship to children treats man and woman in a different way, also those Swiss women who are

Swiss by origin and those who acquired Swiss citizenship through marriage or naturalization.

Until 1977, children received Swiss citizenship from their mothers only if they were born illegitimately or had a stateless father. It was only on 1st January 1978 that some improvements came into force: Children of a Swiss mother married to a foreigner can now acquire Swiss citizenship at birth, if the mother is originally Swiss and the parents are resident in Switzerland at the time of birth.

Obvious inequalities

For children whose mother is not originally Swiss, and for those who were born abroad, there are still obvious inequalities. The law makes two conditions for the Swiss mother. She must be Swiss by origin and she has to live in Switzerland at the time of birth of her child. The term «of Swiss origin» is not defined closely in the law. It has to be determined by interpretation. Up to the spring of 1979, it was interpreted very narrowly by cantonal and federal authorities: Only those women were considered Swiss by origin who possessed Swiss citizenship at birth. On 29th June 1979, the Federal Tribunal decided that the definition should also be used for women who had been naturalized together with their parents or by facilitated procedure. Two inequalities between women remain in this field: women who became Swiss by marriage or who were naturalized are not considered Swiss by origin. In spite of the decision by the Federal Tribunal, there are still two categories of Swiss women, those who can transmit their Swiss citizenship and those who can't. The newly drafted constitutional article 44, par. 3, should eradicate this inequality.

The present law makes another condition, too, which the commission wants to eliminate, the one which ties acquisition of citizenship to the prerequisite that the parents are resident in Switzerland at the



time of birth (only when the father is foreign; if he is Swiss this problem does not exist). The commission is of opinion that such a regulation gives too much importance to chance. As the law stands at present and with increasing mobility of the population, some children can become Swiss whilst others can't. This seems almost absurd.

A constitutional modification

Unanimously, the commission was of opinion that equal rights between man and woman should be instituted. The majority (11) was in favour of a constitutional change, whilst a minority (2) voted for a simple change in the law. Why was a constitutional change given preference? For various reasons. Let us summarize: The conditions as made in the constitutional article 44, par. 3, do no longer correspond to today's situation (they date from the year 1928). A new ruling in the question of citizenship rights, whose portents will quite certainly surpass minimal regulations, can no longer be based on this article 44. In the opinion of the commis-

sion, a new regulation will also curtail the autonomy of the Cantons quite considerably. It must therefore be based on a constitutional article.

Jean-Pierre Gattoni

Please look up other articles which have appeared in the «Review»: December 1976, June and December 1977, September and December 1978, June, September and December 1979 and March and June 1980.

The Swiss Compensation Fund («Ausgleichskasse» or «Caisse de compensation») has moved into a new building. The address and telephone number are as follows:

18 Avenue Ed. Vaucher
CH-1211 Geneva 28
 Telephone: 022 97 21 21
 Telex: 23901 ZASAK CH

«Nit möööglich . . .»

Grock – King of Clowns



in memory of the most famous clown of all times on his 100th birthday

At the head of my contribution on Grock, the greatest musical clown of this century, I should like to put a few dates.

Charles Adrian Wettach which was the real name of the world-renowned clown, was born on 10th January 1880 at Reconvilier in the Bernese Jura, son of a watchmaker and innkeeper. Young Wettach followed an «ordinary» occupation first, but then he was fascinated by the world of artistes when he visited a wandering circus: He learned a number of tricks and, together with his sister, he entertained the guests at his father's inn. Although millions laughed at his ideas later, for him, too, the beginning was difficult. Adrian Wettach first tried his luck as hotel page, house teacher and piano tuner, before he became a master of wit and fun at variety shows and the circus. He had great success in the

circus arena with his partner Antonet, but then he left the circus and became the most expensive clown at variety shows. In 1952, he went on tour with Director Kurt Collien: the latter opened a circus with the name of «Grock», in which the famous clown was the great attraction. When, two years later, Grock retired to his luxury estate on the Italian Riviera with his wife Ines, he was a millionaire several times over. He died on 14th July 1959.

When I was a small boy already, I was proud that the indisputably best clown was a Swiss. I met Grock for the first time over 50 years ago, when I was 8. Together with my parents, I visited a performance at the Zurich Corso Theatre, and in the foyer we were greeted by Grock. He was always responsible for more than half the programme, and that is why we could never engage him at the Knie Circus; but

for financial reasons, too, we should never have been able to engage him. Nevertheless, my father Friedrich and my Uncle Charles Knie kept up a great friendship with Grock. Before the outbreak of the second world war, I could no longer visit any more performances. But when he came on tour from Italy during the war years 1944/45, we went to visit him almost twice a week, and during the winter months, he often visited us in our winter quarters in Rapperswil.

I was most impressed by the way Grock managed to attract the public to him, to engage their eyes, ears and feelings. He could make himself understood in many languages, and when he talked in private, he explained all his inventions of which he was particularly proud. In the course of time, I saw him on stage with four different





From left to right: Fredy Knie, Grock and Rolf Knie in 1944 in Basle (Photo H. E. Staub)

partners, among them also a Swiss. For me, the Dutchman Max van Embden was the most ideal partner; he is still alive in Geneva, aged

well over 80 and visits the Knie Circus regularly. Later I met Grock in Paris and in various towns in Germany. Every

time we sat together, he reminded me of Gottlieb Duttweiler; he, too, could talk for hours of his world. In 1953, the Grock Circus undertook a tour of Switzerland, but not without previously discussing the tour places with the Knie Circus, so that there would be no problems.

After Grock's death in 1959, his widow bequeathed some of his requisites: two stiff collars, three wigs, a felt hat, the frock-coat always several sizes too small, the large «August» trousers and the waistcoat belonging to it, the rattle which his wife used to work during the performance, the large violin with the double-sized violin case and the famous seat of the chair through which he executed his unique and world-renowned jump onto the chair-back. I shall treasure all these souvenirs. For to me Grock was the absolute best individual musical clown.

Fredy Knie sen.

Aphorisms

A selection of aphorisms taken from the speech made by Federal Councillor Willi Ritschard, head of the Federal Department of Finance, during the Assembly of the Swiss abroad held in Lugano on August 23rd 1980.

«Here you have a federal cashbox in which a five-franc piece will soon start getting bored because it is all on its own. Anyone who is married to the Confederation cannot expect a night on the tiles at the moment.»

«You should know, and must know, that the imaginary «Golden Calf» around which we Swiss are also reputedly supposed to dance, is now nothing more than an ordinary cow, at least for the Minister of Finance.»

«Since 1950 we have voted thirteen times in all on Federal Tax proposals – that is an average of once every three years. On seven occasions the people have voted against. The only times they have voted in favour of such proposals have been when tax concessions have punched new holes in the federal cashbox instead of filling it.»

«Our national balance-sheet is bound in beautiful green paper full of hope. But when

you see the red figures in this green balance-sheet you are more likely to see black spots in front of your eyes.»

«I would probably have grasped some things in my life better if they had not been explained to me.»

«A person whose total knowledge is derived solely from books would be better off placed on a bookshelf.»

«The financial position of the Confederation is not the result of mismanagement or a late night booze-up.»

«If you ask the man in the street or even some politicians *where* exactly economies should be made, you often get the not-exactly-instructive reply: «In the field of expenditure, of course!»»

«You cannot constantly ask the Confederation to contribute towards every possible scheme, at the same time persistently refuse new sources of income, and then still expect the red figures in the federal balance-sheet to disappear. You might just as well try to smash a revolving door.»

«Either the jacket is too loose, or the trousers

are too tight. Nobody is satisfied anymore, in spite of our financial blessings. We have become a poor rich people.»

«Switzerland is of course a small country. America is 200 times bigger and has a population 35 times larger. No point in Switzerland is farther than 249 kilometres from Berne. That is the sort of distance an American travels to the cinema.»

«The landscape, the type of houses and the climate change every few kilometres in Switzerland. And in most cases the character of the people changes at the same time.»

«But as Minister of Finance I cannot live in the belief that «Rösti» will grow if you plant boiled potatoes.»

«But we do not want any stormy upheavals either. Not every burst of gunfire heralds a revolution.»

«But – and this is the crucial point – he who does not think of the future will have no future. And I know that for our Swiss compatriots abroad too the future of our country is more important than temporary advantages which may then only lead to an abrupt end.»

«Grün 80»

(Green 80)

During the past summer the Basle Region was host to the «Grün 80» (Green 80), the second Swiss Landscape and Horticultural Exhibition. It lasted 184 days and was visited by 3.6 million persons.

The aim of the exhibition was not only to provide a «Showpiece» but also a setting in which the visitors could experience «Nature» in a realistic way and to create a lasting impression of the benefits to be obtained by preserving the natural habitat. It may well be that the average visitor only admired the beautiful surroundings and did not realise the actual intention of the exhibit organisers. Never the less a «Petition» («grünes Manifest») has been signed by more than 10 000 people supporting a motion that an even balance should be created and maintained between the existing fertile land and the needs of the development-planners and that the environmental problems be brought to the attention of those in government responsible for such matters.

The 46-hectares-site which included the summer villa of Christoph Merian as well as the Basle Botanical Gardens was divided into six sections viz. «Earth», «Green University», «Beautiful Gardens», «Land and Water», «Sow and Reap» and «The Market», so that visitors to the exhibition were able to obtain a clear, overall view. From Spring to Autumn there was continuous abundance of flower displays and shows. In addition there was a monorail operating on a length of 2.6 kilometers as well as a 76 meter high viewing tower. Cantonal Weeks and other numerous arrangements were made to provide lively additional attractions and exhibitions in order to enhance the «Grün 80» summer.

Although the number of visitors exceeded the expected total of 3 million by 600 000 at

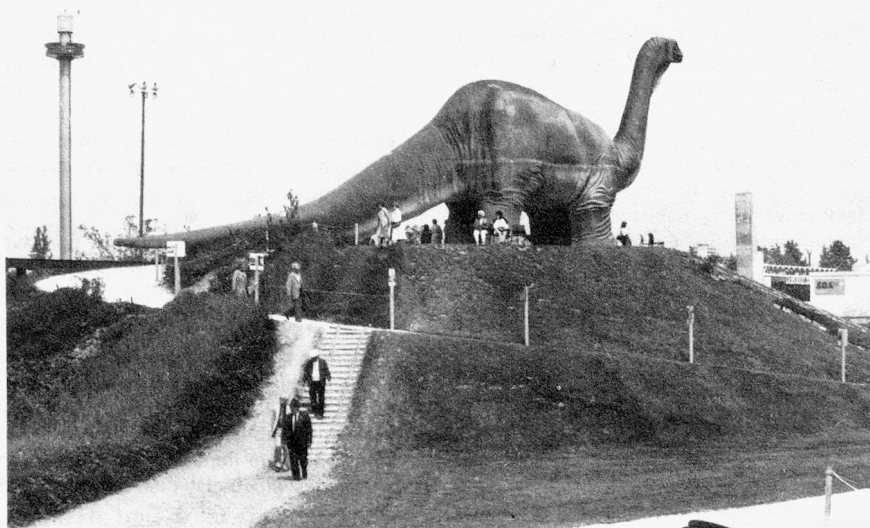


the close of the exhibition, there was an overall deficit of 4.6 million francs. The main reasons for the deficit were that during the first half of the exhibition, exceptionally bad weather curtailed attendance figures and also the fact that there were more «Season Tickets» sold than was originally expected.

The financial deficit, however should not be looked at from a purely financial point of view as the remaining land and constructions, in addition to having an estimated value of 27 million francs, provide considerable amenities for leisure time activities. They include the «Green University», a vast parkland and two lakes that were artificially created. Although the future plans for the area are, as yet, not definite, it is envisaged that The City of Basle's Garden Nursery Department may find a long sought-after site for their requirements.

Left homeless at the closure of the exhibition was the «Grün 80» mascot – a 10 meter high, 27 meter long, 30 000 kilo dinosaur, which was still available for purchase at a cost of 100 000 francs.

Nelly Haldi




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Tages-Anzeiger

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Official Communications

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Football Club in their new jerseys



«High diplomacy on the grass» is how the Bernese daily «Der Bund» described the friendly football match which took place this summer between the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Berne and the footballing enthusiasts of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The numerous spectators enjoyed a lively match, which ended in a victory of 3 goals to 1 for the representatives of the Diplomatic Corps. At the party after the match our compatriots found consolation in their new football jerseys, a present from the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad in grateful recognition of the cooperation it always receives from the members of the Department.

Our photograph shows the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs team at the Neufeld stadium before the match; standing, from left to right: Zbinden, Elsener, Bühler, Inäbnit, Rapold, Bovay, Lustenberger, Soltermann, Gerhard, Invernizzi (manager of the Solidarity Fund); and kneeling, from left to right: Martin, Borel, Casoni, De Carli, Flühmann, Vögeli, Kühni, Jaun.

New opportunity for children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers to become Swiss nationals

Children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers have another chance to be recognized as Swiss nationals. The Federal Council fixed 1st May 1980 as the date for the entry into force of the relevant legal provision.

After the new Children Act became effective on 1st January 1978 children of a foreign father and a Swiss mother were able, **under certain conditions**, to apply within a year for recognition as Swiss nationals. Only after the expiry of that time-limit did the Federal

Court decide certain questions of interpretation in a way that considerably increases the number of children who can benefit from the new provision. Parliament therefore resolved, in compliance with a proposal by the Federal Council, to grant a further period of one year for the submission of applications. The Federal Council fixed this new time-limit to run from **1st May 1980 to 30th April 1981**. Thus all children (including those whose applications have previously been rejected) have another opportunity to apply to the competent authority of their mother's canton of origin for recognition as Swiss nationals.

The conditions which must be fulfilled are:

- that the child had not reached the age of 22 by 1st January 1978
- that **both its parents were domiciled in Switzerland at the time of its birth**
- and that the mother is a Swiss national by descent. Not only women who are Swiss birth but also those who, as children, were included in their parents' naturalization, or whose naturalization was facilitated, qualify as Swiss by descent.

Your Swiss Embassy or Consulate or the Federal Department of Justice and Police can supply further details.

*Federal Department of Justice and Police
Press and Information Service*

Lapse of Swiss nationality in cases of birth abroad

Nationality – in the true sense of the word – is the external tie and the inner commitment binding an individual to a country. If the inner commitment is lacking, so that the nationality is mere outward show, the law must act as a corrective, and it may thus be necessary to revise the way in which the principle of acquisition of nationality by descent is applied. For that reason the federal legislative power, when promulgating the Nationality Act of 1952, dropped the principle that Swiss nationality cannot be taken away and introduced, in Article 10,

a provision enabling the transmission of Swiss nationality by descent to be halted through the lapse of that nationality in cases of birth abroad.

Under that provision a child born abroad of a Swiss father or mother also born abroad loses his/her Swiss nationality on reaching the age of 22 if he/she possesses another nationality, unless he/she has registered or been registered with a Swiss authority in Switzer-

land or abroad or has declared in writing that he/she wishes to retain his/her Swiss nationality. Any communication from parents, relatives or acquaintances aimed at having the child entered in the registers of the commune of origin, registering it or obtaining identity papers for it counts as registration. It is therefore easy to avoid the danger of losing one's Swiss nationality. If, however, despite genuine ties with our country, registration is omitted

for excusable reasons, an application to regain Swiss nationality can be submitted within 10 years of the lapse of that nationality.

Under a transitional provision, persons who were already 22 years old in 1953, and who fulfilled the conditions of Article 10, lost their Swiss nationality at the end of that year if they had not registered by then. It is no longer possible for those former Swiss nationals to resume their Swiss nationality.

Federal office of Police

Sea-going Ships under the Swiss Flag

It may seem strange that a landlocked country like Switzerland should operate a sea-going fleet. At present this comprises 32 vessels with a gross tonnage of 311,000 tons (capacity) or 470,000 tons dead weight and is composed of bulk carriers, general cargo ships and some coasters of various kinds, which, according to the type of vessel and kind of business, are to be found on all the oceans of the world. They constitute mainly tramp shipping but there are also some cargo liners. Impressive as these figures may appear, the Swiss fleet, while being the largest owned by a landlocked country, represents less than one per thousand of the world's merchant fleet. Unlike the first steamships which flew our colours during the war and which, conforming to the conditions of the time, were of a respectable age, today's fleet is on the whole quite modern. In fact, the average age of our ships is about nine years.

In normal times vessels flying the Swiss flag engage in worldwide maritime traffic according to mainly commercial criteria and rarely carry Swiss products. Things were quite different during the war, when the available cargo space grew smaller and smaller, when for political reasons there was no question of using the traditional carriers and when there were various obstacles on the usual access routes. A federal decree of 9th April 1941 therefore created the legal bases of Swiss maritime navigation and from that date vessels flying the Swiss flag have been ploughing the seas. During the war the Confederation owned some of the ships, while today the entire fleet is private property. But our merchant navy's fundamental *raison d'être* has not changed, namely, to ensure the security and provisioning of our country in times of crisis and of war.

The legal provisions are formulated in such a way that the neutrality of our ships is

guaranteed at all costs. For this reason the entry of vessels in the Swiss shipping register is severely restricted. The Act and the Ordinance require that the owners and operators should be Swiss nationals whose domicile and centre of activities is in Switzerland. Similar regulations govern management and supervisory bodies. The ships must be approved (classified) by an international classification company recognized by Switzerland and belong to the highest class. The Swiss flag at sea is therefore in no way a so-called flag of convenience.

How is maritime shipping regulated, by whom is it supervised? The federal decree cited above was replaced by the Federal Maritime Navigation Act of 1953 and the Ordinance of 1956. Moreover, Switzerland is bound by numerous international agreements on this subject, to which she has acceded. These agreements concern, above all, shipping safety, the construction of ships, their load, their manner of navigating etc., as well as environmental protection. Swiss maritime shipping is subject to the overall supervision of the Federal Council. Immediate supervision is the responsibility of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, which exercises it through the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office; this, in turn, uses the services of the diplomatic and consular missions to carry out certain tasks, especially in connexion with the supervision and welfare of crews. The duties of the Maritime Navigation Office include the examination of flag requests for ships and yachts, day-to-day checks on the application of legal prescriptions by owners, operators and crews, the listing of crews and their welfare, the promotion of seamen's training, the issuing of certificates (seamen's licences and books), the drawing up of legal prescriptions, intervention in matters of freight policy, representation at international maritime and technical conferences, the estab-

lishment of offences, documentation in the maritime shipping field etc.

On board Swiss ships federal law is exclusively in force on the high seas, but in territorial waters only insofar as the coastal state's law has not been declared binding. On the other hand, the law provides that all offences committed on board Swiss ships shall be subject to Swiss legislation. Responsibility for prosecution lies with the Public Prosecutor's Office of Canton Basle-City which, on the basis of notifications from the Maritime Navigation Office, has to deal especially with accidents or infringements of international agreements such as the regulations for preventing collisions at sea.

How does one become a captain, chief engineer, radio operator, ship's cook etc.? Anyone wishing to train as an officer in the merchant navy should have a good education and a knowledge of languages, especially English. The German schools of navigation today require the equivalent of the matriculation certificate, while the British system is based largely on practical experience and is also open to those who have completed their primary schooling, provided they have done four years' deck service and taken correspondence courses. Taking into account periods of navigation, which are necessary for all officer ranks, it is possible to become a captain in about eight years under both systems. Artisans who have done an apprenticeship in metallurgy (engineers, engine fitters) are suitable candidates for the career of engineer, leading to the rank of marine engineer officer, class I (chief engineer). Here, too, training takes place abroad and the British schools are preferred for practical reasons. Only radio operators have opportunities to train in Switzerland, namely, at evening schools in Berne and Lausanne, which run two-year courses. Other trades are represented on board: the cook, who



must have done an apprenticeship on land, the baker, the electrician, the carpenter, the steward, the motorman and, of course, the rating. The Maritime Navigation Office gives information on requirements and the various careers.

The Swiss fleet employs about 750 men, of whom 45% are Swiss working mainly in the engine room. A highly regarded and very responsible post is that of chief engineer, to whom interesting opportunities on land are also open. A qualified deck officer holding a captain's ticket has a good chance of obtaining his own command.

It would be unfair not to mention the problems, too. The world-wide crisis in maritime navigation in the late Seventies has been overcome sooner than expected and the level of employment in bulk carrier traffic is, on the whole, good at the moment. There are difficulties affecting liner traffic, where shipping which was previously free is being restricted by increasingly stringent measures taken by certain states and aimed at the distribution and reservation of freight. Moreover, the fleets of some countries whose commerce is state-controlled compete in the market by applying freight rates which do not cover costs. Our operators only manage to survive thanks to their traditional quality and flexibility.

Those are the essential facts of maritime navigation under the Swiss flag. In addition, it is interesting to recall that Sulzer marine engines continue to be more widely used than any other propulsion engine, and that silos from Switzerland are to be found in many ports. Many Swiss forwarding firms have branches in seaports, and many a good

Swiss forwarding agent holds a leading position abroad in the sea freight business. Thus, landlocked Switzerland's relations with the sea are more intense than might at first sight appear.

R. Stettler
Director of the
Swiss Maritime Navigation Office

Holidays in Switzerland again for Swiss children abroad

On behalf of the Fondation for Young Swiss Abroad and Pro Juventute, the Holiday Scheme for Swiss Children Abroad will again organize holidays in Switzerland in summer 1981.

Entitled to take part: Children of Swiss nationality
Children of other nationalities, whose mothers were originally Swiss

Age of participants: 7 to 15 years

Holiday possibilities: In Swiss families
in our holiday camps (from the age of 10)
in children's homes (age 7 to 10)

Application forms and further information: Obtainable at Swiss Embassies and Consulates where applications forms have to be sent to.

End of application: End of March 1981

Cost: No child should be deprived of holidays for financial reasons. According to the parent's income, costs may be carried partially or fully by the organizers.

Communications from the NSH Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Assembly of the Swiss abroad 1980: Swiss schools abroad in the centre of discussion



The 58th Assembly of the Swiss abroad was marked by splendid summer weather, a participation of almost 600 and a plenary session in the light of threatening cuts in federal subsidies by the Confederation. The assembly took place in Lugano from 22nd to 24th August 1980. Originally, the theme was to have been «Education and training of young Swiss living abroad» in general, but in effect, it was confined almost entirely to the future of the Swiss schools abroad, towards which there has been a change of attitude by the Confederation in recent months.

Just how opposed the views are on one side of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad and the Auxiliary Committee for the Swiss Schools Abroad (HKASS) and on the other of the federal authorities, was plainly shown by the addresses of the OSA President, Dr. Alfred Weber, the Director of the Federal Office for Culture, Mr Frédéric Dubois, and the President of the HKASS, Mr Philippe Garraux. These speeches opened the plenary session.

The Organization of the Swiss Abroad considers the Swiss schools outside the homeland – 19 are recognized by the Confederation – of utmost importance for the presence of Switzerland abroad. As places of contact, these institutions can make a contribution towards development aid, and by «exporting» educational services, much goodwill for Switzerland can be

created. They play a specially important part in countries where there is a new kind of emigration from Switzerland, viz. a limited stay abroad, and where it matters greatly that the children will have the kind of schooling which will allow them to continue their education without much difficulty once they are back in Switzerland. The Organization of the Swiss Abroad agrees with the

A much appreciated act.



Confederation that the Swiss schools abroad must be adapted to today's needs and requirements, but emphatically does not question the existence of these institutions as such. Here, as well as with the Swiss abroad in general, is not the place where savings should be effected. The OSA has already handed in an explanation to the Confederation that conditions at home cannot be compared with the possibilities and opportunities abroad.

The Confederation is of different opinion. As was made clear by the speech of the Federal Councillor Willi Ritschard, Head of the Federal Department of Finance, in the afternoon, the federal authorities have one aim in view: saving. Relating to the Swiss schools abroad, it means that the 14.3 million Francs which were given by way of subsidies in the past year, will no longer be increased. On the other hand, the authorities want to work out a new mode of support and a different way of distributing the subsidies, which are more flexible and will consider the interest of all and not only a few privileged Swiss children abroad. (At the Swiss schools abroad recognized by the Confederation, about 6000 pupils are instructed in ten countries, of whom 2000 are Swiss, dual nationals or children of Swiss mothers. Except in two cases, teaching is in German). This means that the Confederation wants to withdraw its recognition and support to all those schools where the legally stipulated 30% of Swiss pupils is not reached (Bogotá, Florence, Genoa and Naples). The role played by the Swiss schools abroad in Swiss cultural presence is not considered of importance by the federal authorities for culture; they are of opinion that supporting young Swiss abroad should be the task of economic promotion.

At a round-table discussion led by the Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Mr Marcel Ney, the viewpoint of the Swiss abroad was once more underlined. As representatives of a Patron Canton, of Swiss schools abroad and of the HKASS, the following speakers expressed their opinions: Mr Alberto Wirth (Rome), Mr Werner Weber (Singapore), Mr Josef Berger (Curitiba), Mr René Siegenthaler (Bogotá), Mr Alberto Angehrn (Milan), Mr Walter Brunner (Madrid), Mr Moritz Buehlmann (Mexico-City), Mr Sergio Caratti (Bellinzona), Mr Joerg Ruprecht (Hong-Kong), Mr Ugo Guidi (Milan), and Mr Philippe Garraux (Berne). All these speakers expressed conviction that the Swiss schools abroad provided an education of high quality and that they had an important part to play for Switzerland, cultural, economic and politi-

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During the plenary assembly.



Committee session of the solidarity fund.

Best foot forward for the «Polonaise».



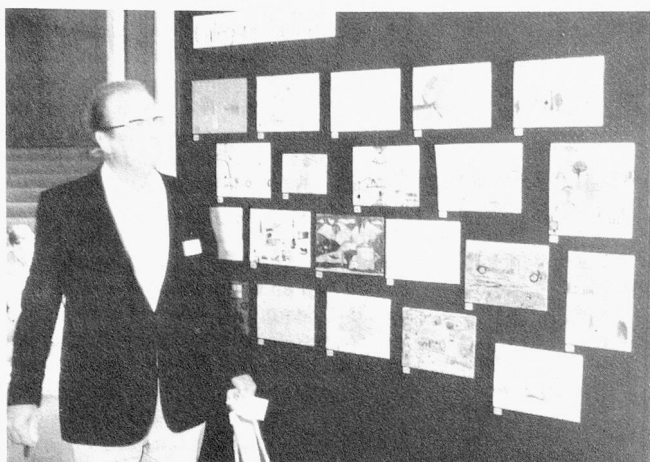
cal, and which could not be expressed in monetary value. It was pointed out that the teachers were feeling unsecure by the present situation. The President of the HKASS, Mr Garraux, stated that this should be remedied by an active and well defined long-term policy of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

Before the concluding speech by Federal Councillor Ritschard, more Swiss from abroad had an opportunity of voicing their opinion regarding Swiss schools abroad: Mrs Friedel Volz (USA) appealed for the creation of a vocational training schools with general educational courses in North America, whilst Mr Kurt Bruggisser (Florence) pleaded for the continuation of the Swiss school in his town, and Mr Alberto Wirth demanded once more clarification of the present position in the interest of everyone concerned. The Head of the Service for Swiss Abroad in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Minister Maurice Jaccard, assured the audience that the Confederation would not take any precipitated action, but would keep up the dialogue with those concerned and interested and would try and find individual solutions which would be acceptable to all.

Finance Minister Ritschard in his usual picturesque style, painted a most gloomy picture of the state of federal finances. He admitted that it was not only difficult for foreigners, but also for the Swiss abroad to understand the bad financial situation of «rich Switzerland». He was not going to raise the hopes of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad that their subsidy would be exempt from the general 10% cut made on all subsidies by the Confederation. This was left to President Weber who, in his final speech, expressed the conviction that there was much goodwill in Government and Parliament for the Swiss abroad, more in fact than was obvious from the present situation, and that in the end spiritual values would prevail rather than material ones.

The result of the 58th Assembly was indeed that the public at large and the representatives of the authorities were made aware of the importance of the Swiss schools abroad, so often misunderstood at home, and that the whole problem should not be viewed only from a financial and material aspect. The representatives of the schools could return to their countries with an assurance that the Organization of the Swiss Abroad would concern itself resolutely with the future of the schools and that the federal authorities would not make decisions over their heads.

This, however, does not yet bring the report of the Congress 1980 to a close. For it is not only the memory of the plenary session that participants took back with them – it is the picture of a brilliant week-end in Southern Ticino, of a venue which presented itself from the best possible side, of many con-



An admirer of the drawings of young Swiss abroad.



The special jury at work.

tacts and lots of lovely hours in the company of compatriots from all parts of the world. There were so many opportunities: the official opening in the courtyard of the Palazzo municipale, the meeting of «new-comers», the buffet in the luncheon interval during the plenary session, the dinner and dance with folklore entertainment by the «Otello» group at the congress centre on Saturday evening. The ecumenical service on Sunday morning at the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli was well attended, followed by an outing by boat to Morcote where a risotto lunch brought the 58th Assembly to an end.

The 29th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place in Solothurn in August 1981. It will be devoted to the new form of emigration.

Nelly Haldi

And what about the others?

Of the 19 Swiss schools abroad recognized by the Confederation, eight are in Italy (Milan, Luino, Ponte San Pietro near Bergamo, Genoa, Florence, Rome, Naples and Catania), two in Spain (Barcelona and Madrid), six in Latin America (Mexico-City, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santiago, Lima and Bogotá), one in Africa (Accra, Ghana) and two in East Asia (Singapore and Bangkok). The Swiss school in Curitiba, Brazil, which was founded in the spring of 1980, has not yet been recognized by the Confederation. Regarding the schooling of the large majority of Swiss children abroad who have no Swiss school to attend, the Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Mr Lucien Paillard, gave detailed information based on a questionnaire sent out to Swiss organizations. In Europe as well as in North America, basic schooling opportunities are generally good to satisfactory. This applies also to university studies, whereas conditions are less favourable regarding vocational training in the Swiss sense. In Africa, Asia and Australia, primary and secondary schooling whose quality is satisfactory, can generally be had at foreign private schools only. With few exceptions, the only other possibility is schooling in Switzerland.

Preparation of an excellent risotto.



Very warm welcome in Morcote (Photo Rodo)



The Gotthard road tunnel is open



The Gotthard post coach in 1873 depicted by the painter Rudolf Koller.

Since the 5th September 1980, the Canton of Ticino is only 15 minutes away by car from the rest of Switzerland. On that day, the Gotthard road tunnel was opened after 11 years of construction work. From a technical viewpoint, this is a marvel whose importance reaches well beyond the Swiss frontiers. With 16.9 km, it is the longest road tunnel in the world.

The initiative came from the Government of the Ticino, the automobile associations and a Gotthard Committee, and on their urgent appeal, the Federal Council set up a «Study Group Gotthard Road Tunnel» in 1960. Their conclusion was that whilst a «rolling road» by train would probably be more economic, a road tunnel would be more suitable from a communications policy point of view. In 1965, Parliament gave its consent to the plan that a road tunnel from Goeschenen to Airolo should be included in the Swiss National Road Network. Construction was begun in the autumn of 1969. The actual tunnelling lasted

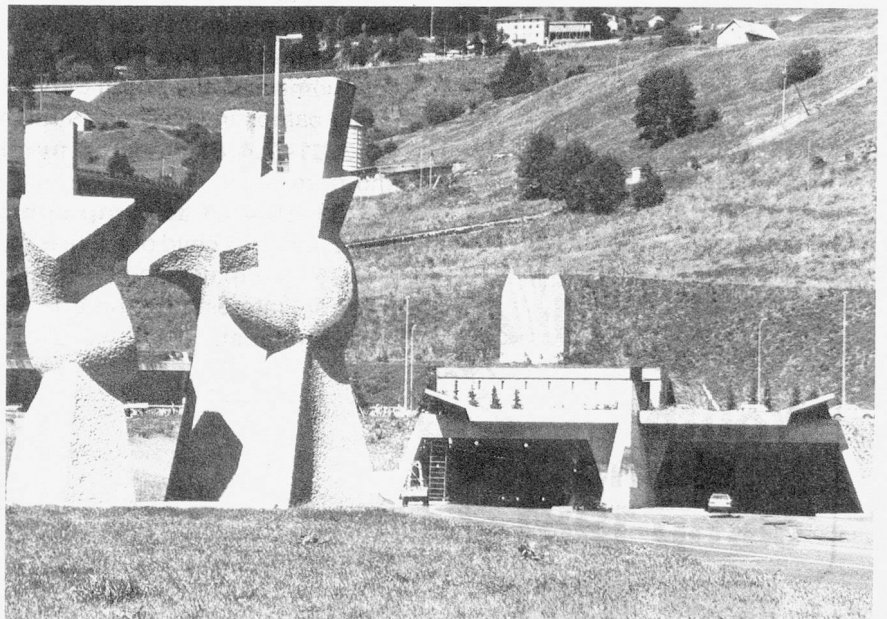
around 8 years. At peak times, up to 730 workers from Italy, Turkey, Yugoslavia, the Federal German Republic, Austria and Switzerland were employed on the site. 19 workmen lost their lives in accidents. The cost of the road tunnel amounted to 686 million Francs (the estimated amount was 306 m in 1969). 90% was carried by the Confederation. Maintenance costs are estimated at about 6 millions Francs *per annum*. The actual tunnel tube under the Gotthard range is 16.3 km long. In addition, there is a preliminary tunnel of 600 metres near Goeschenen. The tunnel opening there is at an altitude of 1081 m above sea-level. Near Airolo it is somewhat higher, at 1145 m. Thus the Gotthard road tunnel is the lowest Alpine transverse. The width of the road is 7.8 m, and the two roads have a capacity of 1800 vehicles per hour and direction. The length of the tunnel and the fact that driving is in both directions necessitated extraordinary technical installations and safety mea-

sures. For the extraction of exhaust gases and the intake of fresh air, 4 air shafts and 6 ventilation centres with 18 ventilators are in operation. At peak hours, the tunnel uses as much electricity as a town of 30 000 inhabitants ...

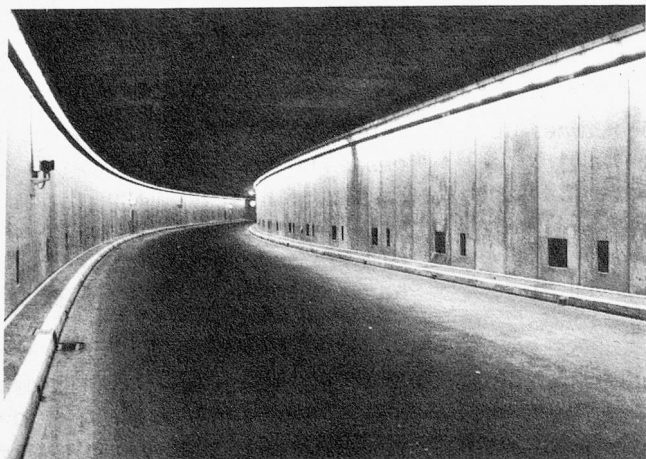
The tunnel is supervised from the operation centres at Goeschenen and Airolo by means of television cameras. If necessary one of the traffic light situated at every 250 metres can come into operation immediately. Should there be a fire, 67 shelters connected by a safety tunnel are available; these can be closed hermetically. 200 SOS stations have been installed in case of puncture trouble.

With the opening of the Gotthard road tunnel the motorway – the N2 – Basle–Chiasso has become the most important Alpine transverse. Yet some intermediate parts are still not completed, and it will be 1987 before the whole N2 is operational. The gaps near Varenzo near Airolo and Gorduno near Bellinzona are causing a lot of trouble to politi-

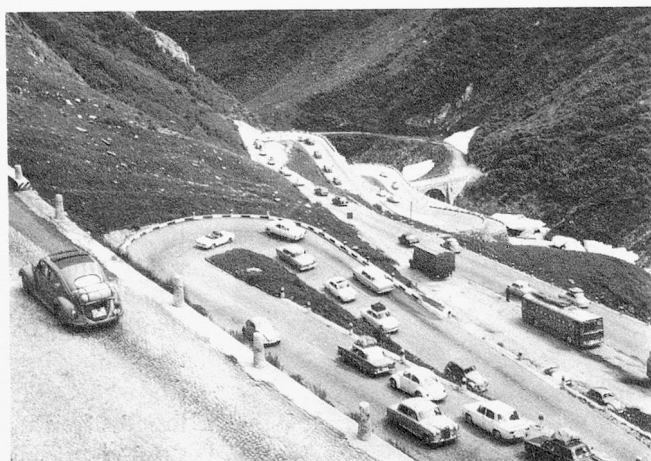
View of the tunnel entrance on the Ticino side.



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The interior of the tunnel.



Above Airolo before the opening of the tunnel (Photos Keystone).

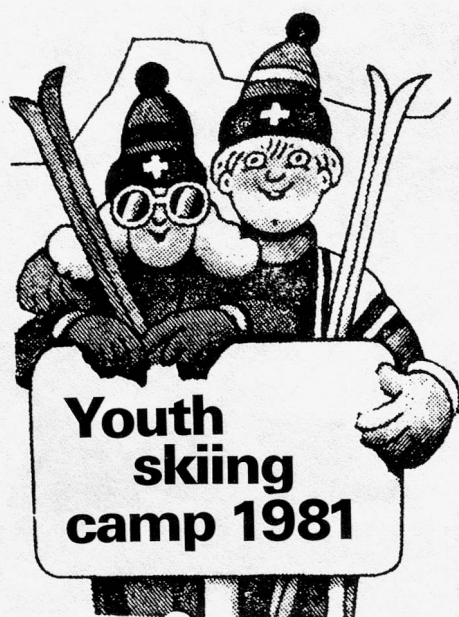
cians, traffic experts and local population; for the Gotthard traffic still has to go painfully and slowly through the winding cantonal roads of the Leventina. It is the lorry traffic which is feared most, and one hopes to confine it to the railway tunnel by limiting the weight to 28 tons and restricting the time of driving through the tunnel. Whilst

the transport of cars by train was stopped when the road tunnel was opened, the traffic of heavy vehicles on the rails, the so-called «Huckepack System», is to be encouraged.

The two adjoining Cantons are not altogether happy either about the opening of the road tunnel. The Canton of Uri can now be trans-

versed by car in less than half an hour, and many of the inhabitants who depend on passing tourist traffic, fear the loss of their source of income. The Canton of Ticino want to counteract this «corridor traffic» by making tourism in the Ticino more individualistic and personal.

Nelly Haldi



Half of the cold season is over. Here in Switzerland one has changed completely from summer bathing to winter skiing.

In order that you, too, the young Swiss from abroad, may follow this sport in your homeland, the Youth Service of the SSA is once again organizing two skiing camps in Les Crosets this year as follows:

29.3.81–7.4.81 as camp number 1

and from

7.4.81–16.4.81 as camp number 2.

If you – also as child of a Swiss mother and foreign father – are between 15 and 25, you may take part in our camps.

If you are interested in this offer, please return the slip below duly filled in to our Secretariat.

Name

Christian name

Address

Date of birth

Place and country

Camp 1 ☐

Camp 2 ☐

(Please put a cross against the camp you wish to attend)

Book reviews

Shoes

Author Paul Weber

At first sight already, this volume of colour pictures of selected objects from the Bally Shoes Museum, the biggest of its kind, will fascinate you. The text accompanying every picture is written in an entertaining manner. It takes us back to the various epochs with their customs in the field of fashion, particularly regarding shoes.

112 pages, 50 colour plates, 16 drawings, Fr. 29.-.

The book may be ordered from AT Verlag, Bahnhofstrasse 39-45, 5000 Aarau, Switzerland.

Valais Tourist Guide

This guide has been lacking so far. It is indispensable for tourism, and it contains everything which we want to know if we wish to make an inventory of the most important features of a country district or a village. When we want to find the aspect which corresponds to our imagination, when we wish to choose the comfort or the picturesque, or wish to be present at a folkloristic event.

The book is practical and well documented. It enables anyone who turns its pages to

find immediately the desired information and detail.

It is not a calendar, but a book which tells us a history and a tale of culture, as well as of the comforts of the holiday resort.

216 pages. Published by de la Matze S.A. Sion. Price: SFr. 13.50.

Lacs alpins suisses

The mountain lakes reflect the Alps. Surrounded by pastures, stone and ice, they radiate magic, charm and secrecy.

Two artists have joined forces in order to present all the beautiful aspects in a book. The photographer Edmond van Hoorick has wandered through Switzerland from the Lac du Bret to the Engadine so as to be able to show the discreet liquid mirrors to best advantage.

Maurice Chappaz, a Valaisan poet, has visited the conquered peaks, the forgotten passes and the peaceful valleys where suddenly one discovers little lakes. The text published in this book is of the finest and most sensitive he has ever written.

It makes a beautiful present, this book of 160 pages. The format is 24×28 cm. There are 116 coloured pictures and maps. Obtainable in French only.

To be ordered from Editions 24 Heures, 39 Avenue de la Gare, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland or at book shops. The price is SFr. 59.50.

History of the Swiss in Southern Africa 1652-1977

It is compiled by F. Ernst and K. Scheurer and published by the Swiss Societies in Southern Africa, Johannesburg (1979). It is in English.

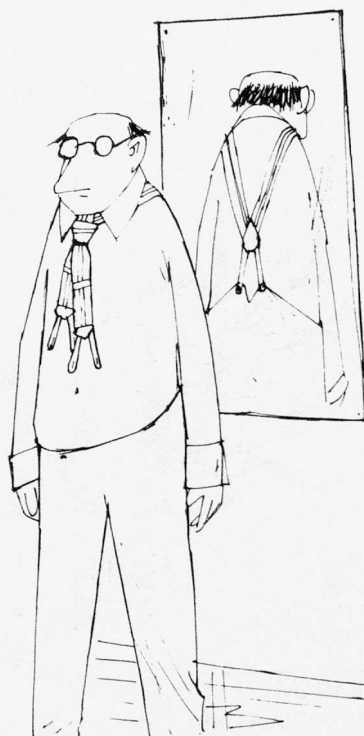
The authors have managed to gather such a fund of information and have presented it in chronological order that they will awaken much interest not only amongst Swiss nationals, but also with many others.

To be ordered from:

Swiss History in Southern Africa, P.O. Box 3626, Johannesburg, 2000 South Africa, or in Switzerland: F. Nuenlist, Tramstrasse 109, 8707 Uetikon am See, Switzerland. Price Fr. 3.-, to be remitted with the order.

Touristic Posters of Switzerland 1880-1940

The touristic poster not only offers information regarding travelling interests and possibilities, but it also enlightens the beholder about publicity methods and



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creative and artistic tendencies and the artistic taste of the period. The book presents a cross-section of posters over 60 years.

160 pages with 180 coloured pictures. Texts in German, English, French and Italian. Price until 31st December 1980 Fr. 49.-, afterwards Fr.62.-.

Orders to be sent to:

AT Verlag, Postfach, 5001 Aarau, Switzerland or to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.

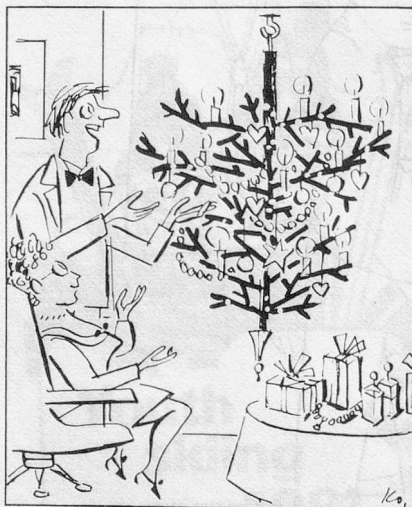
Switzerland and its glaciers – Climatic catastrophes in the beautiful Alps

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The large ice formations are climatic catastrophes connected with the origins of mankind itself. The Swiss Midlands and the largest part of the Alps freed themselves approximately 10 000 years ago. Ever since, weaker disturbances in temperature have caused new meltings of glaciers, so for instance in the second half of the 16th century. The glaciers have receded since 1850 – but for how long?

The format of the book is large, 24 x 30 cm. It has 196 pages and contains over 350 illustrations in colour. To be bought at Editions 24 Heures, Avenue de la Gare 39, 1001 Lausanne, at the price of SFr. 44.50.



«Quite a change, darling, isn't it?»

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