Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer: the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in

the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1982)

Heft: 1795

Rubrik: Swiss soccer

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.. reporting from Berne

ing motorists are those in German-speaking Switzerland. The worst offenders are the French-Swiss and Italian-Swiss.

For example, states an official report, more than 80 per cent of Lucerne's motorists wear their safety belts when driving within city limits, compared with only 17 per cent in Geneva. And in Ticino, less than half the drivers are obeying the new law outside city limits.

Geneva police have now announced a new public information campaign and increased road checks. Nationwide, the fine for lawbreakers will remain at Sfr. 20 (nearly £6) although persistent offenders risk stiffer punishments.

Insurance companies can also refuse to pay settlements in full if it is proved that crash victims were not wearing safety belts at the time of the accident.

* * *

ONE of British Rail's longest serving employees has just retired after 43 years' service with the organisation, 36 of them in Switzerland.

Reg Burnell, who was based at British Rail's Basle office, was acting manager for



Switzerland on his retirement. A Channel Islander, he joined the then Southern Railway in Jersey in 1939 as a clerk "earning 30 shillings a week and spending 25 shillings on food and lodging."

He lived for five years under German occupation, and after the war worked for the Southern Railway in London and Paris

before moving to Basle in 1946.

Reg has devoted much of his free time here to furthering Anglo-Swiss relations. Soon after arriving in Basle he joined the city's Anglo-Swiss Club and there met his future wife, a Lucerne girl working as a secretary at the then Ciba pharmaceutical company.

The Burnells are still active members of the Anglo-Swiss movement, Reg having been the Basle club's president for 10 years and later being elected honorary president. For the past 11 years he has been treasurer of the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs. The couple will continue to live in Switzerland.

Among Reg Burnell's souvenirs of his 36 years with British Rail in Switzerland is one of the meal coupons issued by the Swiss authorities for tourists holidaying here in the immediate postwar years.

"It was impossible to buy a restaurant meal in Switzerland without a coupon," he

recalls.

"Many British tourists had coupons left over at the end of their holiday and gave them to me. I had so many I could have eaten every hour of the day – if I'd had the appetite and the money."

SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including October 4.

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