

Personal

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1964)**

Heft 1459

PDF erstellt am: **17.04.2024**

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The end of the afternoon brought us back to the Civic Hall to a satisfying high tea including the delicious *pâtisserie* of the Swiss *confiseur* J. Sohm of Oldham. Our Chairman Dr. A. V. Obrist welcomed our new Consul Monsieur G. Brunner and his wife, Monsieur Roch, Councillor Mrs. V. E. Hickson, Chairman of the Rural District of Hepton, Councillor H. H. Crabtree, Chairman of the Hebden Royal Urban District Council, and everyone present. Monsieur Brunner replied with an excellent speech in which he said he would be ready at all times in every way to help each and every one of us. Monsieur Roch brought us greetings from the Ambassador, and expressed his own pleasure at being with us again. Councillor H. Crabtree replied with a hearty speech of welcome and was especially pleased to hear the proceedings spoken in English, he remarked on the children who were delightful and had spent the day without a tear. Councillor Mrs. V. Hickson ended with a pretty speech.

After this we sang a few songs which made us nostalgic, and so, with farewells to our friends old and new, we made our way home really happy, having participated in a successful *Landsgemeinde*. S.T.

* * *

The "Guardian" had an article on the "Landsgemeinde" on 22nd July. The following are reprints from Arthur Hopcraft's "Swiss Role Call".

"The bosky gradients of Hardcastle Crag, a generalised misnomer for some acres of National Trust woodland just over the hill from Hebden Bridge, could manage no more than a dulled gleam, like evening ivy, to welcome the Swiss exiles of the North of England for their annual "Little Landsgemeinde" yesterday. "This

beautiful and friendly landscape", Professor J. P. Inebnit called it, but he has seen it in sunnier moods during the last 16 years.

"The Swiss, mainly from the West Riding and Manchester, have gathered there every third Sunday in June since 1948 to evoke a few echoes of their home country, to talk Swiss German, Swiss French, and Swiss Italian to each other over cups of orange juice, and sing a patriotic song or two in that tuneful and discretely jolly Swiss way.

"They chose Hardcastle Crag in the first place because, Professor Inebnit said, it was nicely placed between Leeds and Manchester and looked "a little bit like Switzerland".

"Professor Inebnit, who lectured in French history at Leeds University for 43 years, conducted it with a statesman's dignity and in an Englishman's English. He led an opening chorus of "Là-haut sur la montagne", and then took the group through a potted history of the Swiss Confederacy, calling to him as he listed the cantons the families who came from each. Except for the doctor's wife in Bernese national dress, the gathering had a distinctly English look while it was merely a picnic party. Once the singing started the tweed jockets, grey flannels and flat caps were seen to be filled with an unmistakeable Swiss neatness and mountain valley bonniness."

PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Captain and Mrs. Paul Bleiker of 20, Birch Grove, Hempstead near Gillingham, on the birth of a son, their fourth child. Our congratulations also go to the proud grandparents Mr. and Mrs. A. Bleiker of 6 Hanworth Road, Feltham Middlesex.

Swiss National Day Celebration and Gala Dance

SATURDAY, 1st AUGUST 1964, at 6.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 5.45 p.m.)

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