News from the colony

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1966)**

Heft 1512

PDF erstellt am: **29.03.2024**

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

Recent Activities

The Swiss Hostel for Girls was the venue of yet another film show on 6th October, when the audience was entertained by three films on Swiss architecture sent by the " Pro Helvetia " Foundation. Three more films on Switzerland were shown by courtesy of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

On 20th October, Desmond and Marjorie Parish gave a slide lecture entitled " From Zermatt to the Glaciers ", showing superb wild alpine flora and scenery pictures. The lecturers are both enthusiastic mountaineers and botanists and co-authors of the lovely book " Swiss Mountain Magic " which is now available in the book trade at 50/-. Copies may also be obtained from the U.K. distributors, Bamerlea Books Ltd., Annandale, North End Road, London N.W.11 (telephone 01-458 4341). A German edition is available with the title " Magisches Bergland ".

J.S.

CITY SWISS CLUB

The monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, 18th October at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane.

It was a great pleasure to see the numerous response to the invitation to this October meeting, and it is certain that one of the main reasons for this was the interesting subject of our guest speaker. Monsieur M. G. Franel, Legal Attaché to the Swiss Embassy in London, conveyed to us the meaning of the new Article 45 *bis*, which has just recently been passed in Switzerland by the electorate with a decisive "Yes" and by all the Cantons.

He spoke warmly of this historic date which is bound to further the relations between the mother country and the fifth Switzerland.

Mr. Edgar Bonvin, the President of the Club, thanked Monsieur Franel for his address and also welcomed H.E. the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur de Fischer who was present on this occasion.

The meal had its customary refinements, and we were also reminded that the Annual Ball of the Swiss Club would be held shortly at the Dorchester Hotel. It is thanks to Mr. G. Ronus's efforts that under his guidance we shall enjoy this wonderful event once again. The members of the club all agreed that they would give it their full-hearted support. We hope to be represented in large numbers on Friday, 18th November.

R.G.

(Press Reporter, City Swiss Club)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations in addition to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners: Mrs. J. Caulfield, Comtesse Ch. de Diesbach, Mrs. A. T. Ehrsam, Mrs. G. Ellison, Mrs. J. Jenne (Andeer/Grisons), Miss M. C. Riley, Mrs. L. H. Turner, Monsieur le Consul A. Spargnapani (Casablanca) and Messrs. E. Eha, H. O. Ernst, J.-C. Eyer, V. Gay, G. Gysi, L. Jaeggi, J. Sieber, F. G. Sommer, F. B. Tschudy, E. Weiss. We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S NEW CHAIRMAN



Dr. H. B. Knuchel

As was reported in our last issue, the Swiss Economic Council has elected Dr. Hans Benedikt Knuchel as the new Chairman in succession to Mr. J. P. Christen.

Dr. Knuchel was born in Basle on 28th November 1922, citizen of Basle and Baetterkinden (Berne). His father was Editor of the " Basler Nachrichten ", and Dr. Knuchel had his schooling at Binningen (Baselland) and at the *Humanistisches Gymnasium* in Basle. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Basle where he graduated in 1946. He then went to Edinburgh for some post-graduate studies in economics and subsequently held various posts in Germany, France and U.S.A. In 1951, he joined the chemical firm of J. R. Geigy, S.A., in Basle and was transferred to Geigy in Manchester two years later, first as Assistant Company Secretary of Geigy (Holdings) Ltd., and in 1959 as Secretary and Director of various subsidiary firms. In 1962, he became a Director of Geigy (Holdings) Ltd., and since July 1965, he has been Deputy Managing Director of Geigy (U.K.) Ltd.

Dr. Knuchel takes a keen interest in the Swiss Colony in Manchester, and he was President of the Manchester Club from 1959 to 1961. In 1964, he was elected delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, representing Great Britain North.

In 1952, Dr. Knuchel married Miss Denise Schindler from Neuchâtel, and they have two children, François born in 1953 and Catherine born in 1956. The Knuchels live in a lovely house at Bowden in Cheshire.

Dr. Knuchel has been a member of the Swiss Economic Council since 1959 and on its Committee since 1961. He is eminently qualified for the office of Chair-

man, especially now that the Council is embarking on a new and important venture, the creation of an Anglo-Swiss Trade Promotion Centre.

We wish him success in his endeavours and a good many years of fruitful work.

MM

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We send our best wishes to any readers whose birthdays fall within the next few weeks, and we congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chapuis on their 49th wedding anniversary on 17th November. Many happy returns of the day!

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

Encouraged by the result of our last year's Christmas Draw, the Committee has decided to hold one again this year instead of having a bazaar. The drawing of the prizes will take place on Friday, 16th December 1966. The object of the Draw is to give added financial support to our Chaplain, the Reverend Father Joseph Scherer, in his efforts to look after the several thousand young Swiss temporarily in this country for studies, training or domestic work.

The Committee, with the help of their Chaplain, are doing their utmost in looking after the moral well-being of their compatriots and helping them to pass their leisure hours by running the Swiss Catholic Youth Club. This Club holds socials every Sunday evening at the Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1, with a varied programme such as dances, films, colour slide shows and talks. These functions are regularly attended by an average of 150 to 255 compatriots; at the 1st of August Celebration, we even had an attendance of 350, and at our " Kilby — Kermesse " 250. Needless to say that there are always non-Catholics with us. Our rule " Swiss only " prevents the entry of undesirable elements to our Club. During the summer months, the Club organised a Surprise Country Walk (80 people), excursions to Oxford (160) Canterbury (80), the Isle of Wight (160), a river trip to Kew Gardens (30). Further visits were made to the Tower of London, twice to London Airport, to Westminster Abbey and to the Houses of Parliament in session, etc.

The Committee is still making strenuous efforts to rent and furnish a room in the West End of London, where our Swiss Youth can meet and spend their free time in a little corner away from our beloved Switzerland.

The permanent members of the Swiss Catholic community are unable to carry on as well as they would wish this valuable work which is growing from year to year and it is very important to the good reputation of our young Swiss compatriots in Great Britain, without calling upon the kind support of all our friends.

May I therefore ask you kindly to consider helping our work by sending either a donation or a gift in kind for our Christmas Draw.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

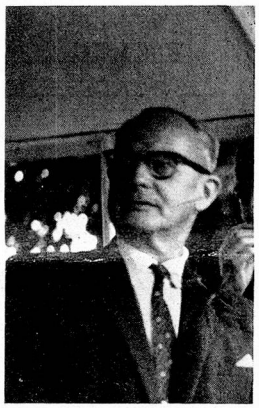
Yours sincerely,

O. GROB, Chairman.

Donations to Mr. O. Grob, 60 Seafield Road, London N.11.

Gifts in kind (latest date 12.12.66) to:—
St. Ann's Presbytery, Abbey Orchard Street, London S.W.1.

ARNOLD KUNZLER 70



Another prominent member of the London Swiss community will be celebrating his 70th birthday in a few days: Mr. Arnold Kunzler of 7 Windfield, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, will have reached the ranks of youthful septuagenarians on 15th November.

Arnold Kunzler was born at Stein, Appenzell, in 1896, but at an early age he was taken to Staad near Rorschach, St. Gall. His father was a great expert on bees, and we have it on record that he won many awards. Among them was the first of 560 prizes at the International Beekeeping Exhibition in Vienna in 1903, when the Emperor showed marked interest in Mr. Arnold Kunzler (senior)'s exhibits. At that time, hope was expressed that the Emperor's honourable award of 50 ducats would stimulate Mr. Kunzler in his *Spezial-Bienenschreinerei* at Staad. His love of nature was passed on to his son, and "our" Mr. Kunzler is still very fond of the beauties of nature and a keen swimmer.

Arnold Kunzler completed his education at the *Verkehrsschule* in St. Gall and then went as a farm-hand to the Jura to learn French. After that he joined a forwarding agency in Basle. His early duties included such things as loading groupage wagons, but he gained quick promotion, for he was quick in the uptake and of no mean intelligence.

After the first world war and a spell of military service he came to London, solely with the intention of learning the language and then moving on to U.S.A. But London fascinated him, and he stayed on. In 1924, he married Miss Nolte from Basle.

Two years later Mr. Kunzler founded Machinery and Technical Transport Limited, later to be known as M.A.T. Transport Ltd. The company, now comprising 300 employees, is a flourishing concern and has just been celebrating its fortieth anniversary. He still enjoys a full day's work at the office, and his two sons, too, play an active part in the business. They are amongst the many who admire Arnold Kunzler's achievements and like him for his generosity, fairness and sense of humour.

Mr. Kunzler has always supported the activities in the Swiss Colony and is a member of several societies. His friends send him heartfelt wishes for many more years of health and happiness with his wife, sons, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

MM