

# Obituary

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the following days: 22nd, 25th and 30th April; 6th, 8th, 15th and 18th May.

Tuesday, 30th April. Purcell Room, 7.30 p.m. *Andras von Toszeghi* Schubert, Benary and Brahms.

#### FORTHCOMING COLONY EVENTS

**SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY:** Wednesday, 24th April, 6.30 p.m. Social Evening with Swiss films and Refreshments.

**SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB):** Friday, 26th April. Presscala Club, 72 Fleet St., London, E.C.4. Annual General Meeting at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7.30 p.m.

**NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.** Annual General Meeting, 6.30 p.m. followed at 7.45 p.m. by the Annual Dinner.

**CITY SWISS CLUB:** Tuesday, 23rd March. Annual General Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

**SWISS CLUB, LIVERPOOL:** Card Evening on the first Friday of every month at Hotel Dresden, New Chester Rd., Bromborough.

*NOTE: We apologize for an error which appeared in our last issue. We announced that the Swiss Rifle Association would be receiving the visit of the Hounslow Philatelic Society on Wednesday, 27th March(!) We hope that readers guessed that we had meant the Swiss Philatelic Society – and just as well, because such a confrontation of hobbies could have had explosive results . . .*

## obituary

It is with regret that we have heard of the death of *Mr. Charles Rudolf Jaeger*, father of Anne and Susette, who died peacefully at his home in Esher, Surrey on 17th December, 1973.

Born in Lausanne on 29th September, 1902, Mr. Jaeger was the only child of Dr. and Mrs. Karl Jaeger, a well-known international lawyer and Chief Justice of Switzerland for many years.

Mr. Jaeger came to this country in 1921 and joined the family business of Otto Jaeger and Co., at 27 Mincing Lane, in the City. He returned to Switzerland to carry out his military service and became an officer. Back in England, he married Violet (Sies-Page) and joined the firm of J. and E. Page Ltd.

Twenty-five years ago, he started his own business, Messrs. Jaeger-Page Ltd., flower wholesale merchants in Covent Garden. His knowledge of flowers was surpassed only by his love of them.

Mr. Jaeger, who was a widower and whose two daughters are married, took an active part in life of the Colony and was a member of the City Swiss Club. He had cut down on these activities during the last years of his life because of his health.

We are also sorry to announce the death on 29th January of *Mr. Francis Dumont* who would have been 77 on 6th March. Hailing from Geneva, Mr. Dumont accomplished his career in catering in London. He exhibited his work and gained diplomas in various catering

exhibitions, including a Gold Medal in 1937. He was a member of the Union Helvetia until the premises were closed due to the war. In 1964, he moved from London to Southsea for his retirement. He leaves widow, Mrs. M. V. Dumont, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

#### PART-OWNERSHIP AT CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

A Swiss-based organisation called *Multihotels*, represented in the UK offered us a free weekend to Crans-sur-Sierre last November to view a completely new concept in property ownership. This new concept, which was described by a reader in the *Swiss Observer* about a year ago, consists of owning a secondary residence for a chosen part of the year for 99 years. One can thus become the owner of a 2-bedroomed studio with a kitchenette and a bathroom for say, the first two weeks of February for the duration of this lease. The studio will belong to someone else for the following two weeks.

I am sure that this entirely new idea was a problem for the lawyers who worked out the contracts, because it was surely outside their normal terms of reference. I understand that the concept is unique apart from a similar arrangement set up by a French firm.

*Multihotels* is Swiss and Swiss-financed. They have so far opened premises in Crans-sur-Sierre, in the Valais and in Sardinia. Other Multihotel clubs are due to open in Montreux and on the French island of La Guadeloupe, in the Carribean. It is possible for owners of an apartment in any of these premises to exchange it for the periods due to him, with an apartment in any of the other premises. An owner can sell his flat and carry out property investments with a minimal outlay. The purchase of a *Multihotels* flat in Switzerland is not covered by the law preventing foreigners from buying real estate in Switzerland. Those who bought a flat at Crans last year have already realised some appreciable capital gains and it is therefore advisable to carry out this purchase in good time.



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Multihotels run a vast 78-flat chalet called the *Marigny Club*, at Crans. A similar one is due to be opened at the same estate and another one, about a mile away, will be opened near the golf course. This will be called *ahte Caddy's Club* and will be of particular interest to golfers.

There are five categories of flats at the *Marigny Club* ranging from 2-bedroomed studios facing up-valley and luxury 6-bedroomed penthouses with a balcony facing towards the Rhone Valley, the high Alps of the Zermatt area and, of course, the sun. The 2-bedroomed studios costs from £168 a fortnight in the low season to £580 a fortnight in the high season. Corresponding costs for the penthouses are £1,600 and £5,000. Naturally, the furniture, kitchen

appliances and other household goods attached to these flats are used by their various successive occupiers. While the idea of commonly-shared property may detract some, I must say that the furniture is of superb quality and likely to last for a good part of the lease. It is naturally kept clean and in good condition by a house-keeping service. The *Marigny Club* is also equipped with a nursery, a restaurant and a swimming pool. In winter there is a regular mini-bus service to the slopes.

Another point which is not without importance is that Montana-Crans has 319 days of sunshine a year, which makes it the sunniest resort in Switzerland. Should anyone be tempted, please ask for more details by writing to Multihotels, 36 Ovington Square, London, S.W.3.

War caused it to fall after the German defeat. When it was bought back in 1922 by a printer from Rorschach, Ernest Loepfe, it had 380 subscribers left.

Today, it has become a financially healthy and well-established magazine relying on only a third of its page area for publicity. Its caricaturist, the famous Carl Boeckli, made the magazine one of the most daring of the time with his cartoons on Nazi Germany and the leaders of the Third Reich. Its present Editor, Franz Maechler, has given the paper a liberal, middle-of-the-road orientation, taking a laugh both at the Right and the Left while at the same time "respecting the foundations of Swiss democracy".

#### Death of Carl Jacob Burckhardt

Carl Jacob Burckhardt, former diplomat, President of the Red Cross and High Commissioner of the League of Nations, has died at his home near Rolle at the age of 82. Hailing from a well known Basle family, Carl Jacob Burckhardt was one of the leading Swiss diplomats of his time. Before the war, he was the League of Nations' High Commissioner in Danzig. Despite the wavering support of the declining organisation, he tried all that was in his power to persuade Hitler not to invade Poland. Among the responsibilities of an exceptional career, he was Switzerland's first post-war plenipotentiary minister in Paris, and he signed Switzerland's adhesion to the European Organisation for Economic Co-operation. His widow is the daughter of the famous Swiss historian Gonzague de Reynold.

## HOME NEWS

#### Swiss managing directors not too badly off

A recent survey by a market research firm in Zurich showed that the Swiss executives were the best paid in the world.

Using the exchange rates quoted last September, they find that a Swiss managing director's average take-home pay was 240,000 francs a year (nearly £30,000). His American counterpart earned 228,000 francs, followed by French (165,000 francs), Italian (120,000 francs) and British (90,000 francs) chief executives.

The reason why Swiss managing directors are the best paid in the world is because they pay less income tax. The scale of gross income is altered slightly. It is as follows: America 410,000 francs, Germany 375,000 francs, Switzerland 320,000 francs, France 212,000 francs, Italy 202,000 and Britain 150,000 francs.

#### The "Nebelspalter" celebrates Centenary

The "Nebelspalter", a satirical magazine which makes thousands of German-Swiss laugh every week, has recently celebrated its Centenary. Published in St. Gall and enjoying a circulation of 64,000 (or about 40,000 less than "Punch"), the "Nebelspalter" has survived several campaigns and threats of disappearance. It was founded in Zurich by a man called Jean Noetzli as a militant publication concerned with the country's internal problems. Noetzli gave it an anti-clerical tack and threw his magazine in the "Kulturkampf". In 1900 it was taken over by a Hungarian, Friedrich Boscovits, who converted it into an inoffensive entertainment so as to reach a wider public. But the "Nebelspalter" lost its original savour. Its readership dropped and the pro-German attitude it took during the First World

## Comment

#### A NEW PLAN TO SAVE THE LANDSCAPE

When future historians write the history of the seventies, they will be able to appreciate that the shift of mentalities apparent in every aspect of life was particularly strong in one area, that of the environment. A new consciousness has set in and new words introduced in the common man's vocabulary.

This is particularly true of Switzerland for several reasons. Its small size is environmentally in conflict with its very high rate of economic growth. The particular ideals of cleanliness and orderliness of its citizens, plus the awareness of the beauty of their landscape and their love of nature, have contrived to "sensitise" the Swiss more than most people to the problems of pollution. While the British, who introduced smokeless zones many years ago, have been accustomed to pollution since the industrial revolution, the Swiss have only recently discovered its misdeeds. These show particularly in the country's lakes and rivers. It is forbidden

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