

Tourist news

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1967)**

Heft 1529

PDF erstellt am: **24.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695456>

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ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

In order to introduce the so-called "transcontainers" to Swiss freight firms, British Railways sent a train to Switzerland (and later in other countries), equipped with the various large container types available. They were exhibited in Basle, Geneva, Berne, Zurich and Chiasso.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of London, seven Swiss Freemasons' Lodges in Zurich, Lausanne and Geneva founded a Swiss Grand Lodge in Berne. Its aims are to promote Liberal Freemasonry according to the principles of the Grand Lodge of London as accepted in 1723. The first Grand Master is Elie Vauthey from Bex.

Early in July, four young English students had an accident on the Moench (Nollen route). One was killed and two badly injured. Twelve men took part in the rescue operations, and a helicopter was used by the Air Mountain Rescue Service. Another British mountaineer was killed in the Bernina region.

Six members of the administration of the British Treasury visited various industrial, finance and banking concerns in Switzerland and had talks with representatives of the Federal Finance Department in Berne.

Twenty-five schoolchildren spent a holiday in Switzerland — all of them lost a brother or sister in the Aberfan mining disaster. They were invited to a holiday home at Brunnen, belonging to Ferryland Continental Tours.

[A.T.S.]

WEATHER NEWS

Early in May, there was still heavy snow in the mountains — over 5m. on the Grimsel. And even in the South (Airolo), there were new snow falls. Towards the end of the month, there was snow in some of the Valais holiday resorts, and the temperature was unusually low. Storms raged over the Canton of Neuchâtel, causing considerable damage; in the town, lamp posts were pulled down by the high winds.

By 1st June, the Lake of Constance had risen by 6cm., which meant an increase in water of over 32m. cubic metres. The Schaffhausen woods were again damaged in fierce rain storms at that time. As soon as the weather became summery, it turned very hot, and caused thunderstorms and hail, especially in Baselland where grain, apples and cherries suffered badly. Storms in many parts caused damage and flooding, especially in Western Switzerland. On some of the Aigle roads, water was as high as 50cm.

On 13th June, the lowest temperature for 70 years was registered in Geneva: 4° centigrade. On 19th June, storms caused grave flooding in the Zurich Oberland, and early in July, the Rhine Valley at Lienz-Altstaetten was flooded. Many houses had to be evacuated when the floods poured down the hill, and the streams carried stones and boulders. The same day, Zurich was affected by a severe storm which caused so much flooding that tram traffic had to be interrupted in some parts.

Warm weather followed and with the heat, more thunderstorms returned. This time, the Grisons were affected, and by mid-July, there were heatwaves in many parts of the country.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Oskar Frohnmeyer (71), Basle, geography master at the *Mädchengymnasium* in Basle for many years, after teaching at Schiers and at a teachers' training College in China.

Prof. Max Hochstaetter (79), former Director of the "Ecole Supérieure de Commerce" in Geneva; broadcasting promoter and President of the "Institut National Genevois".

Johann Balthasar Casti (84), Baden, secondary teacher at Arosa from 1910 till 1943; devoted to the development of the historic museum in the old "Eggahaus" at Arosa; awarded the first ever honorary citizenship of the Commune; author.

Ernst Imhof (79), Basle, founder and head of the machine tool firm of Imhof-Häusermann A.G.

Léon Blumberg (60), Berne, journalist, *Dienstchef* of the Swiss Telegraphic Agency (A.T.S.).

Charles Wuethrich (92), Martigny, originally from Vaud, well-known painter.

Francis Laurencet (71), Geneva, former President of the Geneva Parliament.

Dr. iur. Oscar Sulzer (79), Winterthur, grandson of the founder of the famous Sulzer company; manager of it since 1928 and member of the board since 1948; member of the Commune Council from 1922 to 1935; active in many organisations.

Prof. Dr. Jacob Wackernagel (76), Professor of history of law and public law at Basle University since 1924; head of the Institute for International Law and Relations; Lieut.-Colonel of *Militärjustiz*.

Alois Rosselet (75), Bienne, watchmaker; soldier in the French Army during the whole of the first world war; injured five times and five honourable mentions; the only Swiss to hold the *Médaille Militaire*; Knight of the Legion of Honour and holder of several other decorations like the *Croix de Guerre*.

[A.T.S.]

TOURIST NEWS

The Montreux-Oberland Railway (MOB) and the Rhaetian Railway (RHB) have both instituted innovations worthy of mention. The MOB has totally renovated a 1914 Pullman wagon and even equipped it with a bar. The RHB has introduced a new express train between Chur and St. Moritz, cutting travel time to only two hours; with excellent connections available to international trains, this should provide some relief for automotive traffic to the Engadine.

The Hotel Beatus at Merligen on Lake Thun has announced the opening of a new indoor swimming pool, attached to which is a sauna.

A sport pass valid for ten days and providing resort guests with reductions of up to 20 per cent on all sports and entertainment facilities, has been introduced at Crans and Montana. Guests have freedom of choice as to the kind of sports and entertainment facilities they wish to use. Should interest prove sufficiently widespread, the sport pass will be distributed during the winter season as well.

[S.N.T.O.]