

# J. J. Schneider †

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Paul Schneider (33), trolleybus employee, of Bienne, was killed when his motor-cycle collided with a lorry at Pontresina. (A.T.S.)

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#### VARIOUS.

The "Exposition officielle des Beaux Arts" Paris has awarded the Gold Medal to the Swiss painter, Conrad Meili. (A.T.S.)

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The Swiss Government at the time put at the disposal of the administration of the Swiss pavilion at the Brussels World Exhibition a credit of 7,670,000.—francs. According to recent report issued by the "Zentrale für Handelsförderung" only 5,680,000.—francs were called upon. (A.T.S.)

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Professor Dr. Hans Goldmann, *Ordinarius* for Ophthalmology at the University of Berne, on the occasion of the Congress of the Association for Research into Ophthalmology held in Atlantic City was presented with the Proctor Medal. (A.T.S.)

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St. Gall, the charming metropolis of North-eastern Switzerland, well-known "centre of fashion amongst lakes and mountains" and, according to some experts, the city which harbours the largest number of pretty girls in Switzerland, is going to stage an especially spectacular show of elegance this autumn, from 9th to 13th September. Apart from its traditional International Horsemanship Meet, St. Gall will this year organize the Pre-Olympic Training Test, and the world's best in both "concours hippique" and "breaking-in" are expected to participate. As these two outstanding sports events coincide with the 200th anniversary of one of St. Gall's most important firms in the embroidery industry, especial stress will be laid on fashion shows and other arrangements attracting the gentle sex.

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Berne, the capital of the Swiss Confederation and one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe (population 160,000), is now again linked to the international air-traffic network by daily Swissair flights to and from Zurich Intercontinental Airport. A 4,000-foot concrete runway was recently inaugurated at the city's airport of Belpmoos after the condition of the original lawn runway some time ago had proved so unsatisfactory that Swissair had been compelled to cancel all flights to and from Berne. Belpmoos is considered here as just a "provisional stage"; plans for a new airport with possibilities for medium-range aircraft may be realized within a few years.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 11th September 1959. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: C. Pulfer, Th. Erb, H. Knoll, A. Gallusser, E. Laechler, O. Vonarx, H. O. Ernst, J. W. Frick, A. Renou, F. Bassi, Th. Siegfried, C. Nater, J. A. Steiner, J. P. Locher, V. L. Battailard, A. Gandon, Mrs. L. R. Clements, L. Moore, J. C. Wetter, F. C. Lichtensteiger, A. Kiener, H. Ott, F. B. Tschudy, G. Bruschweiler, P. E. Jenny, C. E. Seinet, Ch. L. Chapuis, F. Streit, E. M. Hamilton, G. Reubi, Mrs. M. Lyddon, J. Stettler, R. Schweizer, Agenzia Danzi, Locarno, Miss A. Baumgartner, Miss F. Blaser.

(To be continued.)

#### J. J. SCHNEIDER. †

We deeply regret to record the passing, on the 8th instant, of Mr. John James Schneider, at the age of 78 years. He died in hospital, where he had been, rather seriously ill, for the past seven weeks, but his end came quite peacefully and he breathed his last in the presence of his daughter, his only child.

Mr. Schneider, known to his intimates as 'Jack', was born at Bâle in March 1881, where he attended the local elementary and higher schools. On leaving, he entered an apprenticeship with a well-known firm of upholsterers and interior decorators.

Next, our friend emigrated to Frankfurt, to attend a school which specialised in training young interior decorators, where cutting, calculating and other matters were taught. He then entered employment in Berlin, when young Mr. Schneider was sent for several journeys on large Liners to the U.S.A., supervising and maintaining the installation of carpets, furnishings, etc.

In 1906 he arrived in London. For the first few years he was engaged with a car firm, in charge of the upholstery department. Later on, having married an English lady in 1913, he established himself in business on his own account and opened a factory for cane furniture and basketware. In the course of years, however, the fashion and demand for this type of furniture died out and Mr. Schneider was reluctantly compelled to liquidate his business.

In March 1930 the Swiss Mercantile Society held a special Meeting, at which Mr. Schneider was elected Secretary, a position which he took over on 1st April of that year and held with distinction until the end of 1952. He put his heart and soul into his work, and was of great assistance, not only to the Society, its Council and Committees, but also to the teaching staff and students. In the latter he took a particular and fatherly interest, and regularly conducted them on sightseeing tours through the London he loved and knew so well. During the war years, when the College had perforce to close its doors, Mr. Schneider was invited by his friend, the late Mr. P. F. Boehringer, to join the staff of the Frederick Printing Co. Ltd., where he soon acquainted himself with his new duties and did very good work, assisting also in the publication of the 'Swiss Observer'.

Mr. Schneider resumed his duties as Secretary of the S.M.S. Ltd. at 'Swiss House' as soon as its doors opened again after the war for the re-admission of students.

In 1952, whilst on his holidays at Stornoway in the Hebrides, our friend was stricken with a streptococcus infection in his legs and had to be flown back to London, where he was obliged to enter hospital immediately. This illness unfortunately hastened the day of his retirement, which, to everyone's regret — particularly his own — had to take place on 31st December 1952. Thus his successful Secretaryship came to an untimely close.

Mr. Schneider was also an ardent Freemason and held the rank of a Grand Officer in the Craft, the Royal Arch and Mark. He was one of the originators and founders of the Helvetica Lodge and its Secretary from the time of consecration to the day of his passing, which means during the long span of 32 years.

In all circles where Jack Schneider had been active, he will be very greatly missed, for he always gave of his best. Moreover, he had a great capacity for friendship and was essentially 'a man's man'. All his many friends will ever remember him with gratitude and affection.

The funeral took place on Thursday, 13th August, at Golders Green Crematorium, and was attended by many of his old friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. Miss Doris Voegelin, Vicarress of the Swiss Church in London, who, after reading the appropriate passages of Scripture, gave a beautiful, moving and uplifting address, in which she stressed the many gifts with which the dear departed had been blessed and which made his long life such a rich one. Mr. A. C. Stahelin, an old and close friend, also spoke in eloquent terms, bringing home to those who knew Jack Schneider well, how much he had given them in many different ways and how greatly he would be missed. Mr. Stahelin also mentioned Miss Schneider's exemplary devotion to duty and assured her and her mother of the real sympathy of all their friends.

To Mrs. Schneider, unfortunately in rather poor health, and to her dutiful and devoted daughter, we express our deepest sympathy in their bereavement. W.D.