

New face for an old pass highway

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SWISS FOOD AND TOURIST WEEK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Opening Dinner on 8th November

The Swiss Food and Tourist Week announced in our last issues officially opened with a Press Reception at Bucklersbury House, Walbrook, E.C.4, on Wednesday, 8th November. The Managing Director of the promoters, Mecca Catering Ltd., Mr. J. S. Crichton, welcomed the guests and the two Guests of Honour, Miss Edith Fraefel, "Miss Switzerland", and the Press Attaché at the Swiss Embassy, Monsieur G. Bodmer.

The Reception was held in the Grillette Restaurant where Swiss goods and food and wine were exhibited, and Swiss flags and flowers and all kinds of Swiss articles, including skis, gave a Helvetic atmosphere, not forgetting some good Swiss wine and Emmental cheese. A live St. Bernard Dog, its traditional brandy keg replaced by one marked "Swiss Wines", was another guest of special importance.

Monsieur Bodmer brought greetings of the Swiss Ambassador who was unable to attend. He also expressed appreciation to the organisers for promoting Swiss goods and tourism and wished them a successful week. To "Miss Switzerland", he extended good wishes in the forthcoming "Miss World Contest" in London.

The Press Reception was followed by a Reception and Dinner at the smart Cotillion Restaurant in the same building, where attractive decorations in the Swiss colours and Swiss cantonal flags provided a gay display. Coloured slides of Swiss holiday resorts and mountain scenery were shown in one part of the room. A model of the Swiss Centre in London was on show, too — the Swiss Week had been organised in conjunction with the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair.

A handsome and festive party then sat down to a five-course dinner of Swiss food expertly prepared and presented. Needless to say, excellent Swiss wines and liqueurs were served with it. A Swiss atmosphere was created by entertainment provided by the "Kontakt" Youth Group of the German-speaking community of the Swiss Church in London. They sang popular Swiss songs in three national languages and performed some pleasing dances. The generous applause accorded them, as well as to a young accordionist and a *Senn* in Bernese costume who gave a short performance on the *Alphorn*, clearly expressed the pleasure and enjoyment had by the diners.

Even without a hilariously funny competition in

Alphorn blowing and some jolly community singing, the evening may be called an unqualified success, and it was hoped that the whole of the Swiss Week would be equally successful. Swiss-type food was going to be served at lunch time at the Grillette Restaurant throughout the Swiss Week, and one cannot but be grateful to the organisers for this excellent idea.

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DIAMOND AND IRON WEDDINGS

The following couples have recently celebrated their Diamond Weddings: Mr. and Mrs. Karl Fischer-Leuthold, Romanshorn; Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Augusta Jeanrenaud, Geneva, formerly of Paris; and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Klunge-Hausmann, Lausanne, a former Colonel of the Fortress Troops of St. Maurice.

Two couples have celebrated their Iron Weddings (65 years): Mr. and Mrs. Jakob and Hulda Keller-Opprecht, Lahnback/Schaffhausen; and Mr. and Mrs. Tanner-Graf, Delémont.

[A.T.S.]

NEW FACE FOR AN OLD PASS HIGHWAY

The Nufenen Pass has a long history dating back to the Celtic and Roman eras. During the Middle Ages and at the beginning of the present epoch, this link between the Cantons of Valais and Ticino was one of the most important trade routes in Switzerland. Various projects to enlarge the Nufenen highway failed to materialise during the 19th century, and with the construction of the Gotthard railway the road lost its importance. The recent construction of a power station on the Ticino side and a dam on the Valais side made necessary new access roads, which have now been joined and are scheduled to be expanded into a modern highway usable throughout the winter. The new road from Goms (Valais) to the Bedretto Valley (Ticino) will serve tourism more than commerce.

[O.S.E.C.]

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