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# It Happened in Central Switzerland

## URI

The Uri people are extremely individualistic, and this mark goes back to the time of international traffic across the Gotthard. This famous pass is still of great importance. Unfortunately, modern motorized traffic has its drawbacks and dangers, too; in 1965, of the total 417 road accidents, 333 happened on the Gotthard road between Sisikon and Hospenthal, and 'only' forty on the other pass roads (Klausen, Susten, Oberalp, Furka and Gotthard from Hospenthal).

For the first time in Switzerland, a railway company has constructed a fully biological water purification plant in the mountain-side: Gurschenalp (220m.) is the site and at the same time, a restaurant and inn have been built.

In January, there were several avalanches in the Urseren Valley, and a landslide happened above Isleten and another threatened Bauen.

An old lady left a legacy of Fr.166,000— to the poorest of the twenty Communes in Uri, which had to be determined by the Uri Government. This is the little mountain village of Unterschaechen with only 630 inhabitants.

In 1962, precious Celtic ornaments were found near Erstfeld. It has now been arranged with the Department of the Interior that the rare valuable finds will remain the property of Uri, but will be lent to the "Landesmuseum".

When Daetwyler A.G., the largest private industry in the Canton, celebrated its Golden Jubilee, the Adolf Daetwyler-Gamma Foundation was created with a capital of a million francs. Half that sum will be at the disposal of the Canton for an additional section to the Kollegium for matriculation and commercial training, including facilities for girls. The firm also builds a kindergarten at Altdorf, to be given to the Commune.

The third part of the renovation of the Cantonal Hospital was completed in January. The administration of the Canton, which has been housed in thirteen different buildings, is to have a new centre, according to plans accepted by the electorate. The value of property (for tax purposes) has more than doubled in the Canton since 1949. The accounts for 1965 ended with a small deficit, but the budget for this year estimates a loss of 6.8 million francs, which caused considerable debate in the Landrat.

## SCHWYZ

The Schwyz accounts ended with a net surplus of 186 million francs, and the budget shows a deficit of nearly 4½ per cent mio. The sum spent on administrative and teaching staff has gone up by 75 per cent in six years.

The Kantonschemiker of Central Switzerland, Dr Melchoir Betschart, has retired, having served since 1935. His successor is Dr Yvo Siegwart from Freiburg. Public spending in the Canton will amount to 13.5 million francs (water purification, four school buildings, civil defence). Road construction will cost 25½ million francs in 1966, of which the Confederation will bear 92 per cent.

A reduction of 3.9 per cent in foreign workers was registered over twelve months. A restaurant for every hundred inhabitants is the verdict for the Canton, with Einsiedeln holding the record of 126, or one per 70 inhabitants!

The Male Choir "Frohsinn" of **Brunnen** celebrated its centenary. On December 9th, the Ewige Bund von Brunnen of 1315 was commemorated. The Manager of the Tourist Office absconded with over Fr.50,000—.

Various welfare and religious institutions at **Kuessnacht** received a legacy of nearly half a million francs from Mrs Babette Bregenzer-Ulrich. The civil defence emergency hospital of **Lachen** has been completed. The Pfarrkirche and the Chapel "Im Ried" are to be renovated. A new school for vocational training will be opened at **Pfaeffikon**. The Commune of **Schwyz**, too, has school problems: today, 72 schoolrooms are sufficient, but by 1975, 120 will be needed. Five more graves from the thirteenth or fourteenth century have been discovered during the renovation of the St Martins Church, one of them a priest's tomb. The Commune of **Tuggen** have granted a 1½ million-franc credit for a centre to comprise a gymnasium, kindergarten, schoolrooms, military accommodation, stores and a flat.

#### OBWALDEN

Shall the "Landsgemeinde" of Obwalden be abolished or improved? An Initiative for the former and a motion for the latter plan have been brought forward. Obwalden, too, estimates a loss for 1966. Foreign workers showed a marked increase over the past year, but this was mainly due to a strong influx after the earthquake, and new figures should be lower again.

Although the Canton is over 95 per cent R.C., a Protestant has been elected into the Educational Council of five members.

In November, it was 150 years since **Engelberg** joined the Canton of Obwalden. In record time of fifteen minutes, the electoral assembly of **Kerns** voted 11 million francs for enlarging the school building. A similar sum was voted by the R.C. Commune of **Sarnen** for a new church of Kaegiswil.

#### NIDWALDEN

In October, an extraordinary "Landsgemeinde" was held at Wil/Stans to deal with the revision of the Cantonal Constitution. Other projects accepted concerned housing and afforestation. The budget for 1966 estimates 1½ million francs on the debit side in



the ordinary and a loss of 2.4 mio in the extraordinary accounts (road improvements, new building for the Cantonal Hospital and waste-water plants).

At the end of the year, Hergiswil voters granted over 8 million francs for waste-water plants and water supplies.

#### LUCERNE

Extension of the Cantonal Hospital of Lucerne, water protection, civil defence, housing, education and road construction will be responsible for an estimated deficit of over 24½ million francs in the special accounts, whereas ordinary income and expenditure should show a loss of 3½ mio.

A proposal has been submitted in the Cantonal Parliament for the introduction of votes for women. The new President of the Grosser Rat is the Christian/Socialist Anton Vonwyl.

Over 4½ million francs have been voted for twelve purchases of land and property for the Canton. 300 million francs will be the final cost of national road construction on Lucerne territory, and an Initiative was launched to improve matters on a constitutional basis. Water protection and waste-water plants are being constructed or planned in many Communes, and special measures have been taken to protect the lakes.

A 202 million-franc project has been submitted for a hospital building (Kantonale Krankenanstalt). The new Chief Surgeon at the Cantonal Hospital is Dr med. Brun Paul Vogt.

An Initiative has been lodged with more than enough signatures asking for a Protestant Church organization in the Canton. A similar demand has been made to introduce a R.C. Church Synod. The Culture Prize of Central Switzerland has been awarded to the R.C. theologian Dr Otto Karrer for his work, both religious and cultural, in the service of interdenominational understanding.

A serious landslide happened in the **Entlebuch** on February 24th. A new factory was opened at **Hochdorf**, manufacturing "Helio-malt", a well-known milk drink.

**Lucerne** celebrated its traditional carnival, beginning in January with the election of the new "Fritschivater", Rudolf Stocker. The Church of St Peter (Kauellkirche), the oldest church still extant in the city, has been subjected to intensive renovation both of the interior and the exterior during 1965. The church, which was founded in 1178 and today stands as a decorative baroque edifice, provided up to 1798 the setting for parliamentary sessions including Federal Diets. It was in this church, too, that in 1476 the booty from the Burgundy Wars was laid out and divided among the members of the Confederacy.

The top classes of the Secondary School for Girls are to be extended and to be formed into the Tochterschule of Lucerne. The Swiss Transport Museum showed a record number of 330,000 visitors in 1965. The Cooperative Society celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Marbach inaugurated its new school building, and St Urban's Abbey Church celebrated its 250th anniversary. The Chief Surgeon of the Sursee Hospital, Dr Roman Burri, will retire during 1966; he will be succeeded by Dr Lukas Nietlispach from Aarau.

#### ZUG

The annual accounts of Zug, too, would be nearly balanced, were it not for heavy expenditure (road construction, hospital and school buildings, etc.) which caused a deficit in the extraordinary accounts of 1.8 million francs. The budget estimates a balanced picture in the ordinary accounts, but for the same reasons, a loss of 5.6 mio francs is predicted in the extraordinary accounts. Water protection, too, is a concern of the authorities. Foreign workers have decreased by 2.1 per cent as compared with the previous year.

At the end of the year, the first skilift in the Canton was opened at Raten-Gottschalkenberg. On January 1st, the "Zuger Volksblatt" became the "Zuger Tagblatt", with a daily issue instead of one three times a week.

A new traffic and road plan for Zug and district has been accepted.

#### GLARUS

Half a million francs is the estimated deficit in the accounts for 1966. For years, a loss was forecast every time, but since 1958, the cantonal accounts have always closed with a surplus. A project (2 million francs) for the renovation of the Glarus Court of Justice has been submitted to the Cantonal authorities to be dealt with at the next "Landsgemeinde". The new Police Commandant is Captain Linus Huber; hitherto, the Police Corps was commanded by a Lieutenant.

The new Clerk of the Council is Dr iur. Jakob Brauchli in succession to Dr Ernst Heer. The staff of the Cantonal Hospital is to have houses specially built.

The power works of Linth-Limmern A.G. was officially opened in the autumn. The 'receptacle' for most of the Glarus waste water is the Walensee, and as this, too, is suffering more and more from pollution, several plants will have to be constructed in the Canton. 60 million francs will be needed, including refuse incineration.

The Synod of the Protestant Church decided to allow women ministers to take up positions in the Church. The late Albert Bremicker from Schwaendi who lived in Milan, left Fr. 3000,00—to his Commune and Canton.

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