

# Regional news : USA

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## A Swiss "Sängerfest" Unites 375 Singers and Yodelers

One of the most stately opera Houses in the American West, the Seattle Opera House, opened its curtains Friday night, June 28, with the dazzling sight of 375 singers and yodelers and performers on the flood-lit stage, all in colorful Swiss costumes. The 2½ hour grand concert was given by choruses from four Western states and two Canadian provinces.

It was part of a four-day festival organized by the Männerchor "Edelweiss" of Tacoma, Washington. The United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast, embracing 11 choruses, have sponsored 22 such festivals since the first was held in 1934. They bring together participants from throughout the United States, Canada and other countries. A special attraction this year were 20 yodelers from the Jodelklub Baden in Switzerland.

With nearly 80 Swiss songs, 70 yodel and instrumental numbers and folklore being offered, one could not help to be proud that here in the distant West, so far away from Switzerland, the Swiss heritage is being preserved so successfully. A high-ranking official in the Swiss consular service here commented that such festivities are another example that Swiss associations in the United States have often been more successful in carrying on Swiss traditions than the "Swiss back home".

It took a veritable small army of Swiss and Swiss-American volunteers to make the festival so successful. The lion's share of the credit goes to festival president Joe Hospenthal (a native of Canton Schwyz), his wife Louise, the members of the 13 festival committees, and conductor John Biehl, the festival music director. There were more than 30 major events to be

cared for by the stouthearted men and women of the sponsoring Tacoma societies, the Männerchor "Edelweiss" and the Enzian Swiss Ladies Choir. The nearly 400 singers in the 11 singing societies had rehearsed diligently during the past two years, coached by their music directors and accompanists.

The focal point of the activities was the Swiss Park of the Swiss Sportsmen's Club of Tacoma, a 32 acre estate now in its 49<sup>th</sup> year. With a spacious club house and other elaborate facilities, and in a beautiful park-like setting, it is easily one of the most attrac-

### Important notice to the Compatriots living in the Bay Area

The Swiss astronaut **Claude Nicollier** will be in San Francisco early in 1997 and will speak about his last mission in space. Details about this very special event, organized by the San Francisco Chapter of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce (SACC), will not be available before December.

Members of the Swiss Associations (SACC, Scientific Community, Swiss Clubs) will be directly informed in due time. Information for non members will be available by calling the voice mail system of the Consulate General of Switzerland as from December 1996: 415-788 2272, extension 107.

tive and best equipped Swiss Parks in the country. Swiss immigration into the Tacoma region began 115 years ago; the Swiss Society of Tacoma has done its charitable and social and patriotic work for 107 years. Still today there are more than 15 Swiss organizations active in the Tacoma country.

These four days of nostalgia, patriotism, appreciation

of our Swiss heritage, and cordial cameraderie with countless friends, will long be remembered and cherished. The festival was a wonderful testimony that among the Swiss and their descendants in the American West our Swiss traditions and the patriotic love for Switzerland are still very much alive.

**Max B. Zimmer** ■

## Bamert Conducts Mozart at the Hollywood Bowl

On July 18, local Swiss-Americans flocked to the Hollywood Bowl for a picnic and a Mozart concert under the stars, with guests conductor Matthias Bamert, director of the International Music Festivals of Lucerne and of London's Mozart Players.

This was the sixth annual celebration of "Swiss Night at the Hollywood Bowl", a tradition that began in 1991 when, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Switzerland, Swiss conductor Peter Maag performed in honor of Switzerland's 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The evening's program featured masterful performances including Eine kleine Nachtmusik and the Piano

Concerto No. 12 (K414), with Japanese soloist Mari Kodama. Ms. Kodama, who studied at the Conservatoire national superieur de musique in Paris, and has performed in concert halls around the world, gave an assured, individualistic, and contemporary rendition of the concerto. The Serenata Noturna and Symphony No. 40 in G minor rounded out this fine concert.

Swiss-born Matthias Bamert began his conducting career as apprentice to George Szell and as assistant conductor to Leopold Stokowski. He has worked with many major orchestras around the globe, and has served as resident conductor

of the Cleveland Orchestra, music director of the Swiss Radio Orchestra in Basel, principal guest conductor of the Scottish National Orchestra, and director of the contemporary festival of Music Nova in Glasgow.

Mr. Bamert, who has lived in London since 1987, is a respected interpreter of the romantic repertoire, as well as a champion of contemporary music. His own compositions have been performed and recorded by major American and European orchestras, and he has conducted world premiers of works by contemporary composers including Takemitsu, Denisov, Holliger, Erb, Huber and others. He appeared in an innovative Swiss-produced television series on alternative presentation of classical music, which has been broadcast around the world.

This year's concert was held under the auspices of the Consulate General in Los Angeles, with media sponsorship from the classical radio station KKGO-FM. Our thanks go to everyone who made this wonderful evening possible.

**Doris Ritz** ■

### Copy deadline for the next issues

#1/97: January 3, 1997 (mailing: February 14)

#2/97: February 26, 1997 (mailing: April 15)

Please send your contributions to the Swiss Consulate General, Rolex Building, 8th Floor, 665 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Fax 212 207 8024, or to the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, Fax +41 31 351 61 50.

A Documentary

## “Just like Frick and Frack”

**You probably have heard the phrase, “...just like Frick and Frack”, or even used it yourself. Have you ever wondered where it came from?**



pantomime plus the rubber legs of Leon Errol variety, they soon became the outstanding comedy skating sensation of the United States and Canada. They brought an entirely new comedy technique to the figure skating world. Their specialty, the hilarious cantilever spread-eagle, a gravity blade stunt, was one of the most amazing tricks in the history of figure skating.

Both started amateur figure skating at the age of seven in a small town in Switzerland. Instead of competing in the 1936 Olympics as they were scheduled to do, they decided it was more fun to satirize the traditional skating, amusing the people around the Swiss rinks. They soon

**Frick and Frack, the two Swiss comedians on skates.**

This documentary is an homage to Frick and Frack, two comedians on skates, who, in the forties and fifties, enchanted audiences by the thousands in North America. They were to the ice shows what Laurel and Hardy were to film. Two eccentric young men from Switzerland, with their immense gift of fantastic imagery, coupled with a Charlie Chaplin sense of

left their studies in architecture and business and went on a professional tour in Great Britain, which was climaxed by a command performance in London in 1938. Shipstad and Johnson signed them as members of the Ice Follies a year later.

Frack's career ended tragically in 1954. He came down with a crippling bone disease, which prevented him

from ever skating again. Frick was Frackless! This meant the end of an era, and of a world famous comedy team. Frick continued his career, for many years, as Mr. Frick, solo. He is retired now and lives in Palm Springs. Frack died in 1979. He was my uncle.

This documentary is about their days of glory, tragedy, and the timelessness of laughter. It is told through archival footage (performance and “This Is Your

Life” 1964 TV show), interviews with Frick and his contemporaries, interspersed with anecdotes, jokes, and re-enactments, supported with photographs, posters, scrapbooks, references to two feature films by Monogram Picture Corp., featuring Frick and Frack in “Silverskates” and “Lady Let's Dance.”

**Gabrielle Guettinger, Silverskate-Productions, 504-1508 Mariner's Walk, CA-Vancouver, BC, V6J 4X9 Tel./Fax (604) 739 8844 ■**

### Auswandererschicksale

*B.J. In der «Berner Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Heimatkunde» hat 1988 Peter Hurni als studierter Historiker die Auswanderung von Bernern nach Übersee im 19. Jahrhundert kenntnisreich geschildert und mit Dokumenten belegt.*

*Ähnliches unternimmt nun für Glarus der Jurist und Journalist Walter Hauser. War ursprünglich an eine Festschrift zum 150jährigen Bestehen von New Glarus in Amerika gedacht worden, so weitete sich das Werk allmählich zu einem Überblick über Armut und soziale Nöte im Tal der Linth beim Beginn der Industrialisierung, zur Darstellung von gesellschaftlichem und politischem Filz und zur Entlarvung der Praktiken von Gemeinden, welche Mittellose in andere Erdteile absoben, um sich Armenlasten zu ersparen. Oft litten die Emigranten bereits auf dem Weg zum Abfahrtschiff – meist Le Havre – schwere Not und wurden von Reiseagenten hemmungslos ausgenützt. In Amerika selber gelang es nur wenigen, zu Wohlstand und wirtschaftlicher Sicherheit aufzusteigen. So ist ein packendes Gemälde der Zeit vor rund 150 Jahren entstanden, das nicht nur für Glarner Interessantes zeigt.*

*Walter Hauser: Bitterkeit und Tränen. Limmat-Verlag, Zürich. 160 Seiten. Fr. 32.–.*

**Aus: Der Bund, 10. August 1996 ■**



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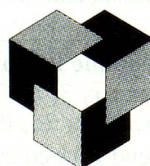
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A historical novel in "Bärndütsch"

## "Niklaus und Anna"

Time runs away when you read this book. There is nothing boring in. It's a living picture of common people at the beginning of the 19th century.

It was the time when Napoleon I conquered Europe and Switzerland with it. Niklaus Marti, the hero of the novel lived then. He was the author's ancestor, strictly speaking his grandfather's grandfather. Werner Marti, the author, searched a long time for source material concerning Niklaus' past and his surroundings and he found a lot. The novel is based on those facts.

Niklaus Marti was the son of a mason. He was resident in Vogelsang, a hamlet in the Bernese countryside called "Seeland". The novel presents his view of a new age: the "ancien régime" (the aristocratic government) has to resign, the native people are oppressed by French invaders and Bern's govern-

ment prosecutes members of a sect with severity.

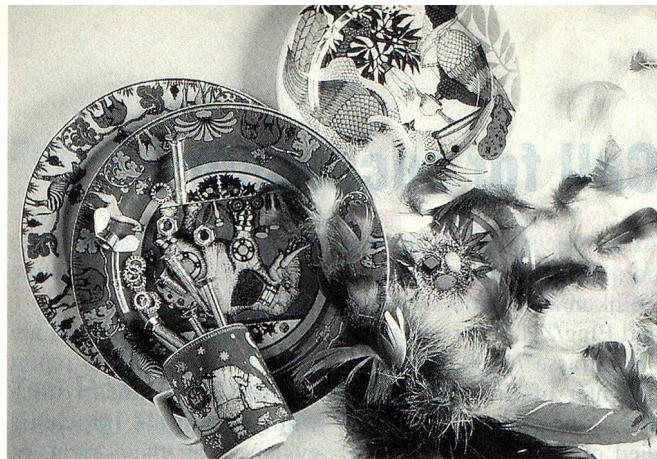
There are three women all of them named Anna (plus a girl named Anja in Poland) who are fond in the biography of Niklaus. Niklaus is forced to follow Napoleon I with his army as a mercenary. He manages to escape and he returns back home.

Rudolf von Tavel (1866-1934) the famous Bernese writer wrote historical novels in Bernese German 70 years ago and Werner Marti has done the same now. His novel was awarded with the "Buchpreis des Kantons Bern" (i.e. prize - donated by the Kanton Bern) in 1995.

In my opinion it's an impressive novel. And don't be timid. Reading "Bärndütsch" (Bernese German) is easier than you think, of course.

**Ueli Baumgartner** ■

Niklaus und Anna, Historical novel by Werner Marti in Swiss German Bärndütsch, Zytglogge Verlag Bern 1995, ISBN 3-7296-0509-7



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## Switzerland's One and Only China Manufacturer

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Fax (415) 641 71 24

## Notice to Heirs

We are looking for the following heirs in the USA, in order to settle the estate from Mrs. Rosa Frei born Zen-Ruffinen the daughter from the late Ferdinand, she was born the 9.10.1906, died in Leuk the 25.3.1995, she had no children.

Her brother Viktor, born in 3952 Susten the 4.10.1896 lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He died sometime in the 1960's. His wife moved to Florida, she died there, they had one son. He was in the Navy and lived in the Chicago area at one time.

Her brother Robert, born in 3952 Susten the 23.10.1898, lived in the Los Angeles area. He had twin sons.

Robert died some times ago and his widow married the twin's Godfather. Any persons claiming to be entitled to participate in the inheritance of the estate of the said Rosa Frei-Zen-Ruffinen are called upon to make themselves known to the undersigned official agency.

**Karl R. Wyder, Justice of Peace Leuk, Sonnenstrasse, CH-3953 Leuk-Stadt, Switzerland** ■

## Call for successors

Alice Hegnauer, spinster, born 27 November 1904 in Zollikon/ZH, from Zurich and Elgg/ZH, last resident at Freiestrasse 71, 8032 Zurich, daughter of Ernst Hegnauer and Albertine née Gruber, died on 6 February 1995 in Zurich/Switzerland. The following persons are called on to register as successors:

from the maternal grandparental relations: any legitimate or illegitimate descendants of the maternal half-brother Beat Joseph Gruber, born on 29 May 1884 in Wiedikon-Zurich and assumed

deceased, believed to have emigrated to the USA before 1914.

The persons called on are herewith requested to report to the undersigned office with documents providing evidence of their right of inheritance within one year from the date of publication of this summons, otherwise they will not be considered in the succession.

**Zurich, 17 July 1996, Zurich District Court, Court secretary: Sgd. (lic. iur. T. Moder)** ■

## Search for heirs

Died at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, on April 22, 1993: Georges Villard, born on January 1st, 1913, son of Jules and Celina née Lanoir, unmarried, originally of Cornol, Canton Jura, Switzerland, his last address being: rue de l'Hôpital 18, CH-2726 Saignelégier. The following are called upon to come forward for purposes concerning inheritance: Henriette Gaignat née Villard, born on January 30, 1902, sister of Georges Villard, originally of Cornol, Canton Jura, Switzerland, married with Joseph Gaignat on March 21, 1924, his last address being: 10901 Jufferne-New York, app. 1211, 28 Bon

Aire Circle, USA, or any descendants of her. Those called upon are herewith requested to announce themselves to the undermentioned office with documents proving their identity as heirs.

**Saignelégier, August 27, 1996. Etude de M. Vincent Cattin, lawyer and notary, Place du 23-Juin 1, CH-2726 Saignelégier.** ■

## Call for missing person

On March 28, 1996, the President of the Altgotgenburg District Court ordered the initiation of a missing persons procedure regarding Rose Maria Müller born on July 9, 1927 in Manhattan, USA originating from Bütschwil, Canton St. Gall, Switzerland possibly in possession of US/Swiss dual nationality, daughter of Joseph Müller

(born on February 10, 1901) and Berta Müller-Schraner (born on July 1, 1894). The person sought has always lived in the United States and has remained incommunicado.

Anyone able to provide information on the whereabouts of the above-mentioned missing person is herewith requested to contact the Altgotgenburg Court Presidium, CH-9500 Wil, no later than April 20, 1997, after which date, in the absence of such information, a Declaration of Disappearance will be issued.

**Wil, March 28, 1996  
The District Court  
Presidium Altgotgenburg  
CH-9500 Wil** ■

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