

Swiss national Day Celebration

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Gaudenz von Planta, well-known "Bündner" author, in Domleschg (Ct. Grisons), at the age of 81.

Benno Schwabe, Proprietor of the Publishing firm, Benno Schwabe, of Basle, aged 66.

Dr. Wilhelm Sarasin-His, in Basle, at the age of 68. He was at one time a lecturer of Philology at the University of Basle, and later on, a partner in the "Seidenfabrik" which was founded by his father. He was President of the Swiss Silk Ribbon Manufacturing Association.

Theodor Schild, founder of the "Kosmos-Fahrrad-fabrik Th. Schild & Co. of Bienne, and head of the "Eterna" Watch Works, in Grenchen, at the age of 80. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. J. Meier-Karrer, of Uzwil (Ct. St. Gall); Dr. and Mrs. Max Müller-Rüfenacht, of Berne; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hugonnet-Laffely, of Morges. [A.T.S.]

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Switzerland intends to introduce television in the near future and proposes a standard of 625 lines and 25 frames/sec. The first stage in the development of a Swiss directional network was the establishment of a telephony link between Zurich and Geneva with relay stations on the Uetliberg and the Chasseral. The relay station on the Chasseral has been enlarged in the course of the past year and its own power plant has been installed. It is expected to play a big part in international telephony traffic. The Chasseral is mentioned as one of the high-altitude stations, together with the Dole, the Santis, Pilatus and San Salvatore, for eventual use in television transmission. In view of the mountainous nature of the country in some localities, relay stations will be used near the larger towns, e.g., on the Uetliberg for Zurich and the Gurten for Berne. It can be assumed that in the eventual television network a relay station will be required on the average every 100 km. The repeater installation and aeriels would cost in each case about 50,000 Sw. fr.

These plans are only provisional and further experiments will be necessary before a final plan for the Swiss television network can be evolved.

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The directors of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa announce the conclusion of an agree-

ment with the Union Bank of Switzerland whereby the bank will grant a loan of 50m. Swiss francs (about £4m. in South African currency) to the corporation.

The loan, carrying interest at 4 per cent. per annum, will be repayable at par in 1962 except that Anglo American has the right to redeem at par in whole or in part at any time after 1957.

* * *

Trumpeters and drummers in the Swiss Army will get a special course of medical training, and in the event of war will serve as orderlies.

INTERNATIONAL RALLY AT INTERLAKEN.

The date for this international motor-car rally has been fixed for Sept. 7th to Sept. 12th. It offers many opportunities to the enthusiastic motorist and promises to provide first-class sport.

The minimum qualifying run is 2200 km., equalling 1370 miles. Participants will also have the chance of competing in the Swiss National Auto-Slalom which will be run on Interlaken airfield on Sept. 10th.

The rally is linked with a circular tour starting from Interlaken on Sept. 11th and leading over six passes of the Central Alps. The tour will include, as a supplementary trial, a mountain race from Gadmen to the top of the Susten pass. This contest, at the beginning of the 6 mountain-pass-tour will not only provide additional interest to the participants, but will also attract a large number of spectators.

The official programme, due to appear in a few days, will enable us to publish further details. The closing day for entries is July 15th.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

The First of August Committee of the Swiss Colony in London have much pleasure in extending to all Swiss and their families in Great Britain a cordial invitation to join in this year's celebration of our SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

The date, time and place will be found on the front page.

Admission will be BY TICKETS ONLY, which will be FREE OF CHARGE and must be applied for in advance. Application should be made by post, to Mr. A. Gandon, The Hon. Secretary, THE FIRST OF AUGUST COMMITTEE, 53, Friars Place Lane, Acton, London, W.3. No ticket can be sent unless a 2½d. STAMPED and ADDRESSED ENVELOPE is enclosed with the application. The full names of all persons for whom tickets are required must be stated.

The tickets will be issued after July 15th but applications must be sent now, the sooner the better. The Theatre holds some 2,200 people. All seats are reserved except 344 balcony seats which are unreserved. Tickets will be issued in strict rotation. Early application is therefore advisable to save disappointment.

It will greatly help the Committee if ticket holders who find themselves prevented from attending the celebration will be kind enough to return their unwanted tickets AT ONCE to the above address for the benefit of other fellow countrymen.

And last but not least, it is hoped again that as many visitors as possible will wear national costume.

THE COMMITTEE.

CITY SWISS CLUB

The next meeting will be held at

THE DORCHESTER HOTEL

on **Wednesday, July 5th, 1950, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.**

Mr. Philip James, Art Director to the Art Council of Great Britain, will speak to the Members on "Art in the Community."

Members and Friends wishing to attend should advise the Manager, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, not later than Tuesday morning, 4th July, 1950.