

# Editor's postbag

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1955)**

Heft 1247

PDF erstellt am: **26.06.2024**

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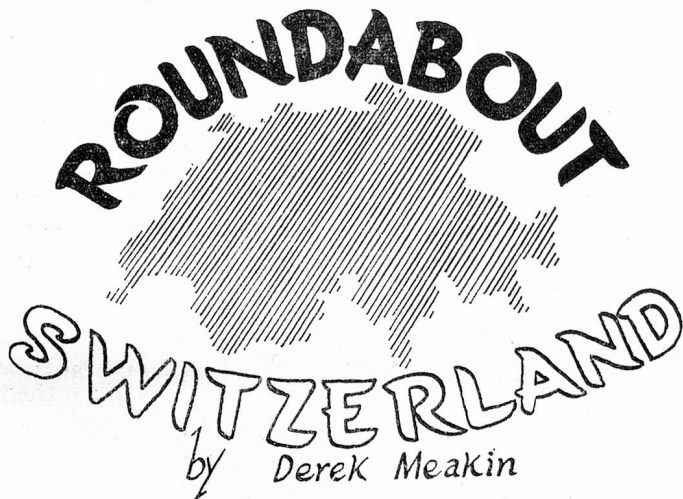
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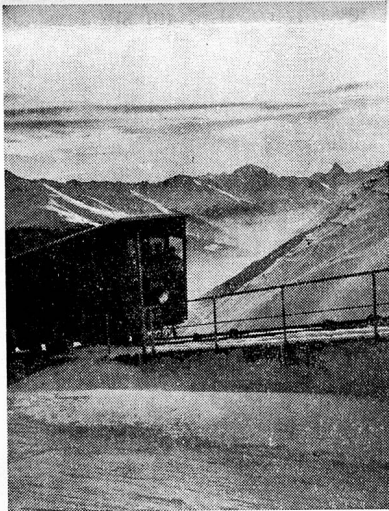


by Derek Meakin

**MARCH** brings with it the silver jubilee of the International Motor Show in Geneva, the start of a Cambridge choir's Swiss tour — and the last of the top skiing events of the season.

One of the leading attractions is undoubtedly the Parsenn Skiing Week, which winds up with the Parsenn Derby, a competition introduced by an Englishman in 1924 and now perhaps the greatest test there is for Alpine downhill racers.

March, when the Parsenn and other neighbouring snow slopes are at their best, has seen the making of much history for Davosers. Remember the brothers



Up to the ski-fields  
— by the Davos-  
Parsenn funicular.

Tobias and Johann Branger? They were the young men of Davos who, in 1889, ordered a pair of skis from Norway. And they had to practice at night — to avoid being ridiculed by their fellow citizens. It was in 1893 that they were able to make their first big tour, over the Mayenfelder Furka to Arosa. The date: March 23. Exactly one year later, to the very day, they repeated the feat, this time accompanied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The creator of Sherlock Holmes ended his pioneer

ski-trek in a rather undignified fashion. To make the descent easier he had lashed his skis together, turning them into a makeshift toboggan. And afterwards he wrote back home: "My tailor tells me that Harris tweed cannot wear out. This is a mere theory, and will not stand a thorough scientific test. He will find samples of his wares on view from the Furka Pass to Arosa".

Fortunately for the many thousands of winter sports enthusiasts who now visit Switzerland each year, skiing technique has shown some improvement since them!

## EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

Swiss Legation,  
18, Montagu Place, W.1.  
London, March 4th, 1955.

A. Stauffer, Esq.  
Editor,  
Swiss Observer,  
London,

Dear Sir,

The Swiss Legation have been asked by the Federal Political Department in Berne to draw the attention of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain to certain new laws concerning *savings in Germany hit by the Monetary Reform in 1948*.

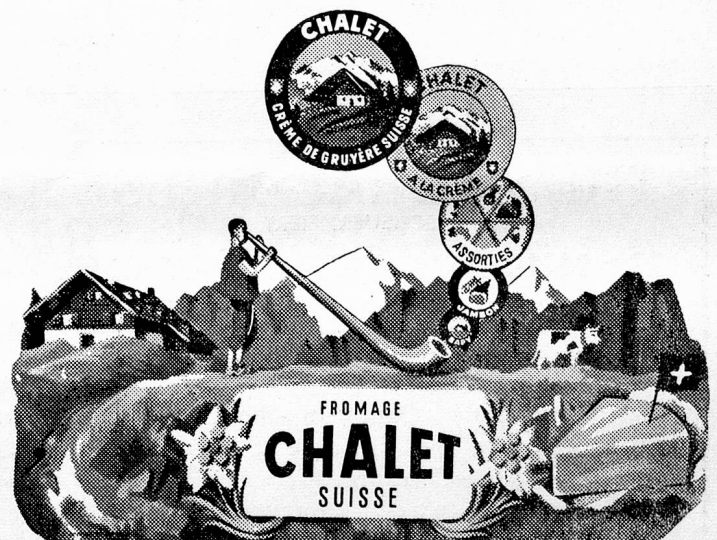
I should therefore be glad if you would be so kind as to draw the attention in your paper to the following communiqué:

"Owners of *post savings books issued by the former German Reichspost* have now under certain conditions a possibility to get these savings converted from RM into DM (at the rate of 100 : 6.5).

On the other hand certain *other savings* which have been converted in the course of the Monetary Reform entitle now to additional compensation according to the so-called "Altsparergesetz" valid in the German Federal Republic and in West-Berlin. This legislation refers to many kinds of savings (Banksparainlagen, Bausparguthaben, Postspareinlagen, Lebens- und Rentenversicherungen, Privathypotheken [Grund- und Rentenschulden], Wertpapiere [Prandbriefe, Rentenbriefe, Schiffspfandbriefe, Schuldverschreibungen, etc.]). One of the conditions to get compensation is that those savings must have existed already before January 1st, 1940.

As claims under these new laws can only be brought forward within certain time-limits Swiss nationals being interested in savings of the above-mentioned kind should *immediately* get into touch with the Swiss Legation, where they can obtain further information."

Yours sincerely,  
H. MIESCH.



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