

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The following foreign diplomats have presented their credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Monsieur Li Ching-Chuan, Ambassador of the Chinese Republic, Monsieur José Luiz Archer, Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic, Monsieur Mokhtar Hadj Nassar, Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Morocco, Monsieur S. A. Baig, Ambassador of the Pakistan Republic, Monsieur Aladar Tamas, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Hungarian Republic, and Monsieur Henrique Ganteaume de Tovar, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Venezulean Republic.

\* \* \*

Mr. Jean Studer has been appointed to the post of Swiss Consul in Strasbourg, and Mr. E. Anderegg to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Recife (Pernambuco). Mr. Anderegg is the Head of the firm Ernesto Anderegg in Recife.

\* \* \*

Federal Councillor G. Lepori, Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, who is in hospital, has, owing to overwork, been ordered three months' rest. During his absence Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen will deputise for him.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of June 1959 amounted to 88.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 62.5 million francs, or 3.3 million francs more than in June 1958.

Receipts for the Confederation during the first six months of the year total 345.1 million francs or 7 million francs less than during the same period in 1958.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Legation in Portugal has been raised to the status of an Embassy, and Monsieur Franco Brenni, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary, has been nominated Ambassador.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Consulates in San José (Costa Rica), Ciudad Trujillo

(Dominican Republic), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Managua (Nicaragua), Panama (Panama), and San Salvador (Salvador) to the status of Consulate-General.

The Honorary Consuls in Ciudad Trujillo (Fritz Schäd), Port-au-Prince (Gustav Gilg), Panama (Robert Eindguer), and San Salvador (Hermann Schlageter) have been raised to the rank of Honorary Consul-General.

Mr. Paul Weiss, Honorary Swiss Consul in Tegucigalpa, has resigned for health reasons; he is succeeded by Mr. Henry Schmid. The new Honorary Consul-General was born in 1892 at Bubikon (Zurich); he has been resident in Honduras since 1930, representing a number of Swiss firms.

Mr. Paul Dambach has been appointed Honorary Consul-General in Managua. He was born in 1889 at Neuchâtel, and has been established as an industrialist in Nicaragua for the last thirty years.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.9 million passengers during the month of June 1959, or 700,000 more than in June 1958. Receipts: 29.7 million francs (June 1958: 28.6 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.18 million tons, which is 90,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 42.4 million francs.

\* \* \*

### Cantonal

Dr. med. Richard Schindler has been appointed chief surgeon of the "Krankenhaus" Schwyz, in succession to Dr. Kaelin, who on reaching retirement age has vacate his post. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Paul Gysler, since 1935 representing the "Bauern, Gewerbe-und Bürgerpartei" of the canton of Zurich in the National Council will not stand as a candidate again at the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Dr. Gysler, who presided over the National Council in 1934/44, is retiring for health reasons.

[A.T.S.].

\* \* \*

A serious explosion occurred at the premises of the firm Hamberger, manufacturers of fireworks at Oberried (Ct. Berne), causing the death of thirteen persons. A number of the work-hands received injuries. [A.T.S.]

On descending from the Espaltenhorn nr. Isenfluh, two eighteen-year-old mechanics lost their lives. They were Walter Urfer and Fritz Michel, both of Boenigen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Goods exceeding 10,000.—francs in value were stolen from an antique dealer's establishment in Berne. [A.T.S.]

The Criminal Court Berne-Mittelland, after sitting for several days with a jury, has sentenced the the Hungarian national, E. Papp, who last year entered the Hungarian Legation in Berne, armed and demanding under threats the handing over of a number of documents, to 18 months' imprisonment, less 322 days whilst on remand. [A.T.S.]

One man lost his life, and another was injured, on a mountaineering excursion in the Bernese Oberland. The name of the deceased was Hans Jutzeler, of Grosshöchstetten. The man who was injured, Rudolf Schneider, also of Grosshöchstetten, has been taken to hospital in Thun. [A.T.S.]

A group of mountaineers from Basle, when on an ascent to the Winterstock (Galenstock district), were surprised by a stone avalanche, and Mr. Stern (27), geometrician, of Basle, was killed. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Berne for 1958 close with a credit balance of 113,872.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. jur. Huber has been elected rector of the University of Berne for 1959/60. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the cycleworks "Zesar, A. G." Nidau caused damage amounting to 500,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Adam (49), optician, of Olten, and his five-year-old son were drowned whilst on a rowing-boat trip on the lake of Zug. [A.T.S.]

The 65th Gymnastic Festival held in Basle from 8th to 12 July was favoured with beautiful weather. M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen attended the closing performance. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eduard Handschin, Director of the Natural History Museum Basle, has been nominated an Honorary Member of the "Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft" Vienna. [A.T.S.]

An unsuccessful attempt at robbery was made at the branch office of the Cantonal Bank, Basle-Country, at Aesch. Shortly before the bank closed, a man entered and threatened the cashier with a revolver. The cashier tackled the gunman, who managed to free himself and escape in a waiting car; nothing was stolen. [A.T.S.]

The Tribunal of the canton of Basle-Country has sentenced a 30 year-old motorist, who whilst driving under the influence of alcohol caused an accident in which a man and a woman were killed, to two years' imprisonment. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Peter T. Lewis, Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce in Basle, has relinquished his post, which he has held for 37 years, on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Mr. Ch. W. Kessler, of London. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernst Probst, commercial manager of the "Sandoz, A. G." Basle, and a member of the Board, has celebrated his 50th service jubilee with the concern. [A.T.S.]

During 1958, 587 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Schaffhausen; 393 persons were injured, eight of them fatally. [A.T.S.]

A collision between two passenger trains occurred at the railway station in St. Gall. A train coming

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from Rorschach crashed owing to an oversight of the driver — into the rear of a stationary train, of which the last two carriages were derailed. Forty-four injured passengers were taken to hospital, 31 of whom were discharged after receiving treatment, while 13 of them were detained. [A.T.S.]

In the Val Sedoz (Ct. Grisons), Olympic Felix, of Berne, a fourteen-year-old boy, lost his life whilst gathering "Edelweiss". [A.T.S.]

The British Ambassador in Berne, Sir William Horace Montagu-Pollack, has paid a courtesy visit to the town of St. Gall. He visited the "Ostschweizerische Stickfachschnule", and the "Spitzensammlung Ikle und Jacoby" and the "Stiftsbibliothek". [A.T.S.]

Two men wearing dark glasses and carrying revolvers entered the premises of the "Banque Cantonale" in Cully. The cash desk was occupied by three clerks, one of whom, a Mlle. Lavanchy, of Lutry, had the presence of mind to put the alarm machinery into operation, whereupon the intruders took to their heels and escaped in a car, which was reported to have been stolen. [A.T.S.]

M. Robert Piot, a member of the Radical Party of the canton of Vaud, will not be a candidate at the next parliamentary elections. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Leonhard Ragaz and his wife of Wabern, near Berne, lost their lives on the ascent to the "Portien-grat" (3,654 metres) near Saas Almagel. [A.T.S.]

**DEATHS.**

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jules Dujardil, for twenty years President of the commune of Dardagny, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 76.

Erhard Ruoss-Kistler, industrialist, in Lachen, aged 58. The deceased was from 1928 to 1948 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, and from 1935 to 1951 he sat in Parliament (National Council).

Carl Kaelin, timber merchant, in Einsiedeln, at the age of 85. He sat in the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz from 1912 to 1920, and from 1922 to 1928. Kaelin was a member of the Government of the canton Schwyz. For two years he occupied the post of "Landammann".

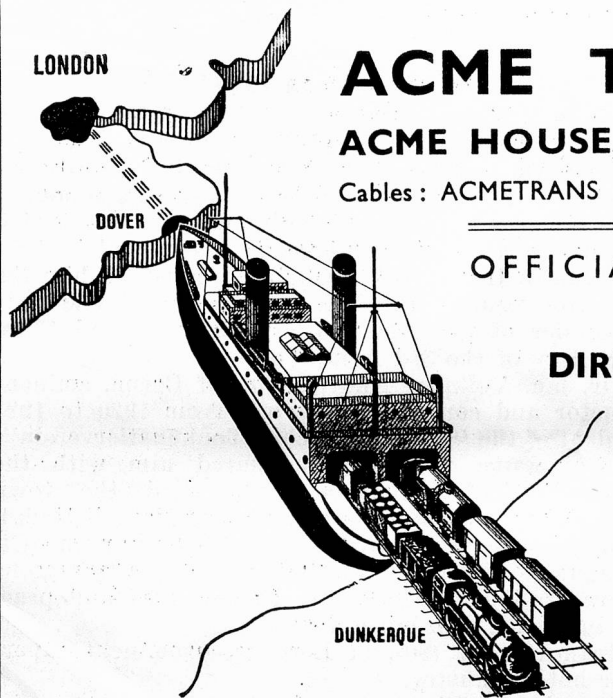
Madame Veuve Karoline Fiechter-Singler, the oldest female inhabitant of the town of Basle, in Basle, aged 103.

Marius Maillart, a former trade Union official, and afterwards editor of the Socialist paper, "Le Peuple", in Geneva, at the age of 70.

C. V. Mens, well-known orchestral conductor, in Interlaken, aged 55.

Andreas Hackhofer, from 1923 to 1939 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 82.

Professor Dr. med. Karl Rohr-Schaerer, from 1933 to 1938 Head Surgeon at the Medical Clinic Zurich, and since 1943 Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 59.



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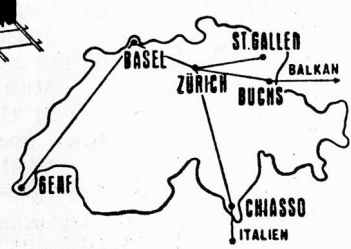
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Mme. Emilie Vuichoud-Girard, in Montreux, at the age of 105.

Joseph Schwitter-Hophan, Director and a Member of the Board of the "Graphischen Kunsanstalt Schwitter, A. G.", in Zurich aged 56.

Fritz Steinmeyer, well-known dealer in works of art, in Lucerne, at the age of 80.

Louis Rinsoz, industrialist, in Vevey, aged 89.

Werner Schlaepfer-Rüegger, senior partner of the printing works, "Werner Schlaepfer & Söhne", Weinfelden, in Weinfelden, at the age of 79.

Professor Dr. Walter Pauli, from 1928 to 1955 Head of the Statistical Office of the canton of Berne, and Professor at the Bernese University, in Berne, aged 72.

Carletto Salvioni, pioneer of Military aviation, in Lugano, aged 77.

Andreas La Roche, landscape painter, in Lugano, at the age of 61.

Friedrich Schaller, for twenty years a member of the Grand Council of the canton Lucerne, in Fluehli, aged 56.

Professor Dr. William D. Treadwell, from 1919 to 1954 Professor of chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zollikon, at the age of 75.

Professor Dr. Hans Bessler, teacher at the "Kantonsschule" St. Gall, and later lecturer at the Commercial University of St. Gall, in St. Gall.

Dr. Alfred Veit-Gysin, lawyer, and for 25 years a member of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-Country, in Liestal, aged 84.

Adolf Galliker, in Zurich, at the age of 68, The deceased was from 1933 to 1959 editor of the "Zentral Blatt" of the S. K. V., and sat for several years in the "Kantonsrat" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. h.c. Alfred J. Buechi (80), of Winterthur, consulting engineer. The "Jubilar" received in 1937, from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Admiral Melville Medal. In 1938 he was honoured by the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*, and in 1952 the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, awarded him the Henderson Medal. In the army he was at one time Commander of the 6th Artillery Brigade, and Chief of Artillery of the 3rd Army-Corps.

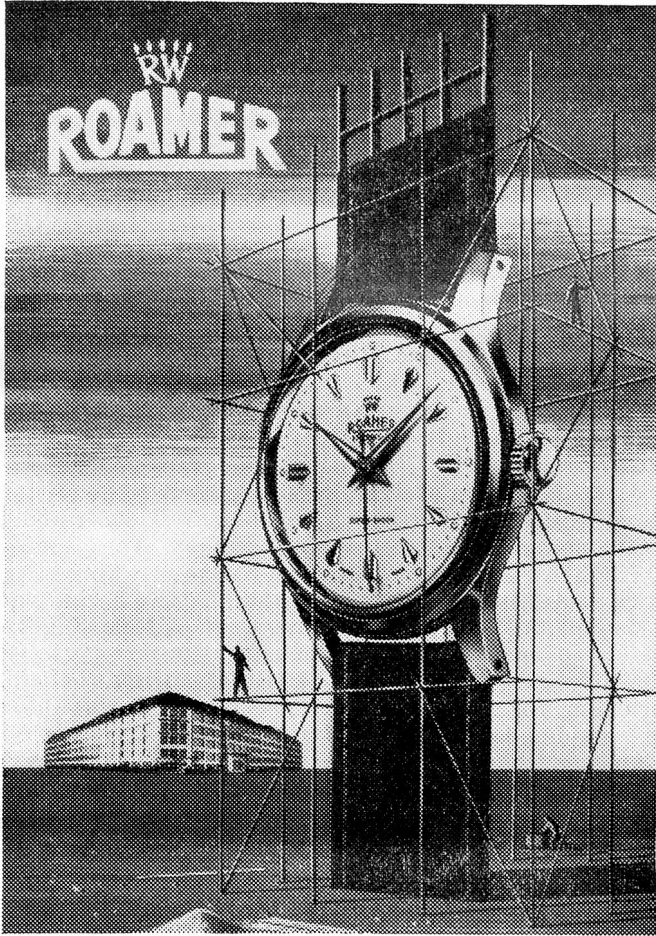
Dr. h.c. Volkmar Andrea (80), of Berne, eminent conductor and composer. He was from 1920 to 1925 President of the "Schweizerischen Tonkünstlerverein". The University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*, and the town of Zurich awarded him the Hans Georg Naegeli Medal.

Max Sauter-Falbriard (80), of Donzhausen (Ct. Thurgau), noted singer, and founder of the "Stagione d'opera Italiana"; since 1940 he has lived and practised in Zurich as a music teacher.

Jean Haecky (80), of Lucerne, prominent expert of the hotel industry.

Maurice Brailard (80), of Geneva, a former member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and town architect of Geneva.

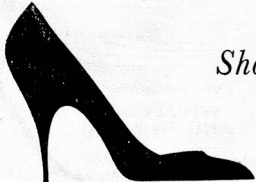
Willy Aeschlimann (80), of Geneva. He was for fourteen years calligraphist of the League of Nations, and was at one time Director of the "Argus der Presse" and Publisher of the "Almanach du vieux Genève".




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### ARMY.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Divisional Colonel Karl Brunner, Commander of the 3rd Division, expressing thanks for the services he has rendered. Divisional Colonel Friedrich Ruenzi (55), of Boezingen (Ct. Berne), has been appointed to the command of the 3rd Division.

Brigade Colonel André Schenk (56), of Noville and Rennaz (Ct. Vaud), has been promoted to the rank of Divisional Colonel.

General Staff Colonel Jean Schindler (57), of Couvet, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel of Brigade. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### LEGACIES & DONATIONS.

The heirs of the late Hermann Keller-Menet, manufacturer, of Gais, have donated to the community of Gais, for public utility and cultural purposes, the sum of 21,000.—francs.

The late Mrs. Katharina Broechin-Kletti of Rheinfelden, has left various amounts totalling 180,000.—francs to a number of charitable and church institutions.

The heirs of the late Robert Vogt-Hefti, of Uznach, have made a donation of 20,000.—francs to the welfare fund of the "Spinnerei am Uznach", in memory of the deceased.

M. Hermann Tobler, of Pannissières (France), has made a donation of 40,000.—francs to his native commune, Thal (St. Gall), to be used for building alterations at the "Krankenhaus" Thal.

The Government of the canton of Vaud has received an anonymous donation of 100,000.—francs for the "Fonds Lymphone".

Director Emill Dreyfus, of Basle, in view of next year's jubilee of the University of that town, has created a Fund of 250,000.—francs, the beneficiaries to be talented students of chemistry with limited means.

\* \* \*

### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Welti-Hoffmann, of Zurich-Wollishofen, Mr. and Mrs. Adolphe Desponds-Renaud, of Lausanne; Mr. and Mrs. Jean Rutz-Diem, of Herisau; Mr. and Mrs. Rais-Imer, of Tessenberg; Mr. and Mrs. J. Rupp-Hund, of Rorschach; Mr. and Mrs. W. Baldinger-Geier, of Schaffhausen; Mr. and Mrs. G. Furrer-Tanner, of Itaslen (Ct. Thurgau); Mr. and Mrs. E. Buttlinger-Brunner, of Rapperswil (St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

One person was killed and one seriously injured when two cars on overtaking collided on the road between Pratteln and Liestal; the deceased was Frau Alice Bolliger (53), of Basle.

Mr. Albin Lüthy, 26-year-old technician, of Berne, was killed when his car, owing to a skid, crashed down a slope and overturned.

A motor-cycle ran into the back of a motor-car at the Stockernweg-Stauffacherstrasse, in Berne. The





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driver of the motor-cycle, Hans Mauerhofer (47), civil servant, of Berne, received fatal injuries.

On the road Hasel-Hittnau (Ct. Zurich), a motor car collided with a lorry. The motor-car was totally wrecked, and the driver, Walter Schulthess (51), of Uster, was taken to hospital, where he died as the result of his injuries.

A motor-cyclist, Ludwig Wermelinger (25), a farmer in Hasle (Entlebuch), was run over by a train at a level-crossing near Schüpfheim. He received fatal injuries.

One person was killed and four injured when a motor-car collided with a lorry on the road between Bulle and Lausanne. The person killed was Mme. Anne-Marie Moreillon (40) of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### VARIOUS.

Interlaken. It was news even to many an enthusiastic admirer of Switzerland's famous "Glacier Pilot", Hermann Geiger, to learn that 40 years ago, in July 1919, the first successful landing on a glacier near the glamorous vantage point of Jungfrauoch (11,333 ft.) had been effected by Swiss Air Force Pilot Robert Ackermann in a somewhat fragile Swiss-made "Haefeli DH-3". In commemoration of Robert Ackermann's pioneering flight, a memorial bronze plate was recently inaugurated at the Jungfrauoch. Glacier aviation, for several years a speciality of Swiss Pilots, is considered in this mountainous country as an outstanding, though daring, device for rescue purposes.

\* \* \*

Berne. Every seventh Swiss was in possession of a motor vehicle by the end of 1958, the Swiss Federation for Road Traffic stated recently. With some 726,000 registered vehicles serving a population of 5,210,000, Switzerland is now one of the most heavily "motorized" countries in Europe. This figure does not include an additional 125,000 army cars, or tractors and other agricultural vehicles. Furthermore, an estimated thirteen to fourteen million foreign cars and motorcycles entered Switzerland temporarily last year.

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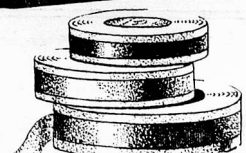
Pontresina. Some 20,000 pieces of trout fry have recently been dumped in the lovely mountain lakes, Lej Nair and Lej Pitschen, on the Bernina pass near Pontresina. As trout fishing at an altitude of 6,500 feet above sea level is considered one of the "free-of-charge" tourist facilities of the glamorous resort in the Engadine valley, the Pontresina Tourist Association is anxious to maintain a permanent live stock of fish in order to safeguard the area's reputation as an "anglers' paradise".



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Gstaad. Britain's Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein will be opening the 15th International Ski Jumping Competition, named after and patronized by him, on a new ski jump on 7th February 1960. The new installation will allow competitors to perform jumps of 250 feet and more. The whole construction — the costs of which are estimated at 40,000 Swiss francs — also includes a new platform for the jury and the press. It is expected that Gstaad's 15th Montgomery Cup will attract even more jumping fans than the years before as one of the outstanding events in its field.

\* \* \*

Lausanne. Alberto Camenzind, Chairman of the Swiss Federation of Architects, was recently elected Chief Architect of the Swiss National Exhibition fixed for 1964 in Lausanne. Swiss National Exhibitions are held every 25 years in one of Switzerland's major cities; the last one was in Zurich in 1939. The purpose of these large-scale shows is to remind the Swiss people of their own "national line", and at the same time to give foreign visitors a complete picture of what Switzerland has achieved in the past and what it is going to undertake in the future. Several preparatory activities in view of the exhibition, including the construction of an "autobahn" highway leading from Geneva to Lausanne, have already been started.

\* \* \*

Sion, the capital of the Swiss Canton Valais, is staging its new "sound-and-light" performances which are considered as one of the most spectacular open-air festivals in the world. The setting consists of the town's two romantic hills, which are crowned by one of the oldest churches of Europe and the remains of the medieval episcopal palace, the "Valeria", and the "Tourbillon". The thoroughly modern conception suggests that these two hills "narrate" the extremely rich and colourful history of Sion; for this purpose, Maurice Zermatten, a local poet, has written a series of texts which have been recorded and will be transmitted, together with the musical sequences composed by Georges Hänni, through seven loudspeakers, while the scenery will be floodlit by some 150 projectors. The cost of installations for these performances amounted to a total of 750,000 Swiss francs. A thousand visitors per night are expected during the summer seasons.

\* \* \*

The majestic Alpine scenery never fails to attract large numbers of visitors to Switzerland each year. Once upon a time only the mountaineers were

privileged to experience a close-up view of the magnificent scenic beauty of the Alpine peaks. To-day these pleasures and delights are available to all, thanks to boldly constructed mountain railways and alpine roads. The popular Swiss Alpine Postal Coaches, in their bright yellow attire, maintain regular services on the famous passes throughout the Summer. Holders of the Swiss Holiday Ticket pay only half-fare.

\* \* \*

A new "Mot-Hotel" has been opened recently by the Touring Club of Switzerland at Ragaz Spa. The so-called "castle" of Ragaz has been transformed into an hotel and sixteen motel bungalows situated in a wonderful park have been added. The "mot-hotel" also boasts a comfortable camping site.

\* \* \*

The Lucerne Courses on Tourism, which will be organized, for the tenth time, from October 26th to 29th 1959, will live up to their international reputation as a "high academy of tourist experts". Lectures will be given by Swiss, German and Italian experts, and other features include practical exercises, discussions, and excursions in to the lovely surroundings of Lucerne. The courses are open to managers and qualified executives of tourist and travel offices, railway companies, airlines and hotels, and to travel writers and other persons interested in or connected with tourism.

\* \* \*

There are 1050 swans on Lake Geneva, 180 on Lake Neuchâtel, and 6 on Lake Morat latest counts revealed recently.

\* \* \*

The loftiest Alpine Gardens in Europe are situated on top of the Rochers-de-Naye above the glamorous Swiss lakeside resort of Montreux (Lake Geneva), at an altitude of more than 6,500 feet above sea level. Among the most interesting flowers to be seen are those brought back by the Swiss expedition to Mount Everest. The Alpine Gardens are easily accessible within five minutes from the Rochers-de-Naye Hotel.

\* \* \*

The population of Switzerland is estimated at 5,210,000 inhabitants at the end of 1959. The five largest cities account for a total of 1,092,900 inhabitants; they are, listed according to rank, Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Berne and Lusanne.

\* \* \*

Considerable reductions on the fees for the shipment of cars through Swiss Alpine railway tunnels have recently been announced by the Swiss Federal

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Railways. As the system of these shipments has been improved lately, passengers will no longer have to get out of their cars during the tunnel trips. Fees now also include the fares for the passengers. Furthermore, cars are now charged according to two categories, the "small" ones with less and the "large" ones more than 13.5 feet in length. The new reductions will amount to 40 per cent in some cases.

\* \* \*

From his winter home in Santurce, Puerto Rico, world famous cellist Pablo Casals has confirmed his acceptance of the Presidency of the Seventh Zermatt Summer Academy of Music, and is personally to give a master class for the interpretation of cello concerti by, Boccherini, Haydn, Schumann, Dvorak and Saint-Saëns, from 20th August to 9th September 1959.

Other distinguished musicians to give master classes in the Matterhorn Village are violinist and string quartet leader Sandor Vègh and Emil Hauser, pianist Karl Engel, vocal coach and accompanist Hans Willi Haeusslein and cellist Rudolf von Tobel.

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## SWISSAIR'S OPERATION IN FIRST HALF OF 1959

Swissair's traffic results for the first half of 1959 show an increase of eight per cent in both capacity offered and utilised, compared with the same period a year ago. Ton-kilometres produced totalled nearly 95 million and revenue ton-kilometres performed 54.5 million.

Passenger and mail traffic each increased by three per cent. Cargo traffic showed relatively the largest expansion, with an increase of 34 per cent to 11.2 million ton-kilometres. This was mainly due to the operation of the DC-6A Cargoliner, which also contributed to an increase of 64 per cent in Swissair's freight traffic on the North Atlantic. Another notable increase in freight carriage — by 39 per cent — was recorded on the Far East route. Overall, the share of freight in Swissair's traffic rose in the period under review from 17 to 21 per cent.

Average load factor on the schedule services remained unchanged at 57.6 per cent.

Despite jet competition Swissair carried 15.6 per cent more passengers across the North Atlantic than in the first half of 1958. Apart from the general expansion of travel between the United States and Europe, a popular innovation contributed to Swissair's success in this field: Passengers flying first-class by Swissair from New York to Europe can at time of booking choose their meals in advance from a menu card containing some 30 different dishes.

The company considers the above results satisfactory, as it is this year completing its preparations to put jets into service and in this transitional period faces competition from carriers already operating jet aircraft.

Three new destinations — Ankara, Kuwait and Teheran — were added to Swissair's network in the first half of this year. The present network has an unduplicated length of nearly 125,000 kilometres (77,400 miles) and covers 54 cities in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. In terms of the length of routes flown regularly, Swissair is now in sixth place among the 88 member companies of IATA.



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