

# News at Random

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1962)**

Heft 1405

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. J. KELLER (Chairman), GOTTFRIED KELLER (Vice-Chairman), DR. E. M. BIRCHER, O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, A. KUNZ, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER (ad. int.) WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 48. No. 1405

FRIDAY, 30th MARCH 1962

### NEWS AT RANDOM



#### Federal

On the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Eugenio Balzan Foundation in the Swiss Parliament buildings (reported in last issue), President Dr. G. Gronchi of Italy was present. Although his visit was not an official one, the Italian President paid a courtesy visit to M. Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and members of the Federal Council. The Swiss Government offered a dinner to the distinguished visitor, at which nineteen persons were present, which was followed by a reception in the Foyer of the Parliament building attended by 300 guests. Before returning to Rome Monsieur Gronchi invited the members of the Federal Council to a dinner.

\* \* \*

The Federal Military Department, in agreement with the Political Department, has made the following appointments as Military and Air Attachés: Colonel Karl-Heinz Schaefer, to the Swiss Embassy, Cologne; General Staff Major Karl Weidenmann, to the Swiss Embassies in Lebanon, Iran and Iraq, with residence in Ankara.

\* \* \*

Switzerland is at present representing the interests of eleven countries in eleven foreign countries, viz. —

France: in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Iraq

Belgium: in Egypt

Turkey: in Egypt

Iraq: in France

U.S.A.: in Cuba

Argentina: in Cuba

Persia: in Israel

Philippines: in Bulgaria

Brazil: in Rumania

Rumania: in Spain

Togoland: in Nigeria

\* \* \*

The accounts of the Swiss Confederation for 1961 show a credit-balance of 328 million francs.

\* \* \*

The Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration has made a profit in 1961 of 93 million francs (1960: 88 million francs).

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in January 1962 19.9 million passengers. Receipts: 30.4 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.44 million tons. Receipts: 48.8 million francs.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of February 1962 total 105.2 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation

(Bund) receives 82.3 million francs, or 2.8 million francs less than during the same period in 1961.

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the opening of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, the Federal Council, represented by Federal Councillors F. T. Wahlen and W. Spühler, offered a dinner to the Foreign Ministers attending the Conference.

\* \* \*

#### Cantonal

The "Bika Holzverarbeitungs" works in Fluelen were totally destroyed by fire; the private house of the proprietor, Alois Bissig, was also burned down. The damage caused is very considerable. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. jur. Emil Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, has been re-elected as Mayor of the town with 44,609 votes; his opponent, Rudolf Welter (Socialist), received 25,177 votes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A safe containing 18,000.— francs in cash was removed by burglars from a motor-car show-room in the Baslerstrasse in Zurich. The empty safe was later found in a pond near Wädenswil. The police arrested three men involved in the burglary, but none of the missing money has been found. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A nineteen-year-old male student and a seventeen-year-old girl student of the *Gymnasium* Zurich were reported missing for several days. The police, aided by students and boy scouts found the bodies of the missing couple near Meilen. An appeal made over the radio by the parents of the couple, announcing that they did not object to their liaison, unfortunately came too late. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On her 80th birthday, Fr. Elisabeth Rotten was honoured with honorary citizenship by the commune of Fischental (Ct. Zurich) for her unselfish social work rendered to — apart from many others — the Pestalozzi village in Trogen.

\* \* \*

During lunch-time, burglars entered the branch office of the Kantonal Bank Zurich in the Schaffhauserstrasse in Zurich, but failed in their attempt to open a safe. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Dr. Felix Bloch, of Zurich, who was awarded the 1952 Nobel Prize for Physics, has been honoured by the University of Jerusalem with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The well-known Hotel "Ochsen" at the Kolinplatz in Zug, was severely damaged by fire. The damage is estimated to be over 250,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

A sports aeroplane piloted by Mr. Ernst Mittelholzer (30), merchant, of Uitikon am Albis, crashed on the Gottschalkenberg (Ct. Zug); the pilot and his passenger, Mr. Kurt Robert Schrempf (41), merchant, of Urdorf near Zurich, were killed. [A.T.S.]

At a specially convened meeting the commune of Welschenrohr (Ct. Solothurn) has bestowed on Director Joseph Ganzinger, watch manufacturer in Welschenrohr, honorary citizenship in grateful recognition of his great services rendered for many years to the commune. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Otto Miescher (Radical) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton Basle-Town, in succession to Dr. Edwin Zweifel, who has vacated his office for reasons of health. Dr. Miescher was born in 1905, and after the conclusion of his Law studies entered the service of the Swiss Federal Railways, where he held various appointments. In 1947 he was nominated "Direktor der Basler Verkehrsbetriebe". He has been a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town since 1950. [A.T.S.]

The 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent issue for twenty-five million francs of the "Société des Forces Motrice du Grand-Saint-Bernard" has been oversubscribed, and allocations have had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

At the 90th annual meeting of shareholders of the Swiss Bank Corporation, held in Basle on 2nd March 1962, Mr. Charles Türler, Binningen, was elected a new member of the Board of Directors. [A.T.S.]

Professor Karl Barth, for the last 35 years Professor of Theology at the University of Basle, gave his last lecture at the Aula of the University previous to his retirement, the theme being "Die Liebe". Professor Edgar Salin, Prorector, paid Karl Barth a moving tribute for his work as a teacher, educator and scholar. [A.T.S.]

For the third time since its establishment the Robert Bing Prize for Neuro-biological research has been awarded by the Academy of Medical Science.

This year's recipients were Professor Pierre Gloor, of Montreal (15,000.— frs.), and Dr. H. E. Kaeser, of the neurological clinic of the University of Basle (15,000.— frs.). [A.T.S.]

The CIBA Aktiengesellschaft Basle intend to increase their share capital from 100 million francs to 120 million francs. [A.T.S.]

The show-window of the jeweller's establishment, Huwiler, in Schaffhausen, was smashed by a young man, and goods valued at 10,000.— francs were stolen. He decamped in a stolen car, which was later found at Schleithaim, near the frontier. [A.T.S.]

The electorate of the canton of Grisons have ratified the election of their representation in the States Council (Ständerat) for a further three years, viz., Dr. G. Darms (Conservative) and Dr. A. Theus (Democrat). [A.T.S.]

Two employees of the Rhätischen railways lost their lives through being buried by an avalanche at the Alp Gruem station (Poschiavo). They were Ulrich Caduff (50), of Pontresina, and Pietro Costa (33) of Poschiavo. [A.T.S.]

For the first time in the history of the canton of Vaud, women have taken part in the Cantonal Government elections. Of the 45,639 women entitled to vote, only 14,260 went to the poll, in the town of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

All the seven members of the Vaudois Government have been elected, viz., Pierre Schumacher (Radical), Pierre Oguey (Radical), René Villard (Socialist), Louis Guisan (Liberal), Edouard Debetaz (Radical) (new), Pierre Graber (Socialist) (new), and Marc Henri Ravoussin (Peasant and Bourgeois Party) (new). [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Odette Prongue, of Lausanne, on leaving her business one evening, was knocked down by a man who snatched her bag containing 1,800.— francs and then decamped. She was taken to hospital for the treatment of her injuries. [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Geneva at the end of 1961 numbered 266,439.

Monsieur Philippe Baudet, French Ambassador in Berne, paid a visit to the Government of the canton of Geneva. He was entertained to luncheon and in the evening was the guest at a reception given by the French Colony.

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M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, opened the 32nd International Salon d'Automobiles, in Geneva. Amongst the official guests who attended the banquet were: the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Sweden; representatives of the International Organisations with seats in Geneva; the Presidents of the National Council and States Council, Messrs. W. Bringolf and Ernst Vaterlaus respectively; the President of the Geneva Government, M. Emile Dupont; and the Mayor of the town of Geneva, M. Maurice Thévenaz. [A.T.S.]

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## DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Otto Weber-Taeschler, in Lugano, at the age of 90. The deceased was elected a member of the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall in 1900, and in 1920 entered the Cantonal Government, in which he served until 1931. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1911 to 1927. He was at one time editor of the "St. Galler Stadtanzeiger".

Pasteur Daniel Gros, in Neuenstadt; he was at one time Pasteur of the Swiss Churches in London and Marseilles.

Abbé Adrien Duseiller, for 42 years a priest in Compésières, in Geneva, aged 77.

Georges Pantillon, composer and conductor, in Corcelles, at the age of 91.

Fräulein Marie-Louise Schumacher, from 1921 to 1951 an active worker of the "Verbandes Volksdienst-Soldatenwohl", in Zurich, aged 71.

Professor Dr. Hans Moeteli, Professor at the Commercial University, St. Gall, in Winterthur, at the age of 65.

Fritz Scheurer, a former teacher at the "Realschule"

Basle, and a great worker in the Swiss Boy Scout movement, in Basle, aged 75.

Frau Witwe Anna Henggeler-Gaudi, the oldest female inhabitant of the town of Zug, in Zug, at the age of 97.

Professor Dr. Robert Debes, from 1906 to 1949 Professor at the "Handelshochschule" St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 84.

Werner Salvisberg, consulting engineer, and a member of the Board of the A.G. Brown, Boveri & Cie, Baden, in Zurich, at the age of 63. The deceased entered the firm in 1925, and occupied various important posts, both in Switzerland and abroad.

Professor Dr. Walter Kummer, from 1912 to 1940 Professor of "Maschinenlehre" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, aged 87.

Jules Ferdmann, editor and publisher of the "Davoser Revue", in Davos, at the age of 73.

Otto Odermatt, from 1949 to 1958 a member of the Government of the canton of Nidwalden, in Stans, aged 70.

Professor Dr. Emil Jakob Ott-Walther, Professor of Chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 85.

Josef Anton Müller, from 1913 to 1944 "Staatsarchivar" of the canton of St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 80.

Professor Albert Perrier, from 1911 to 1953 Professor of Physics at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, at the age of 79.

Pasteur Charles Chenevière, for 40 years a preacher at the Plainpalais Parish Church, Geneva, in Geneva, aged 81.

Dr. V. Winiker, in Lucerne, at the age of 79. The deceased sat in the National Council from 1925 to 1931, and again in 1943. In 1934 he entered the Government of the canton of Lucerne, of which he was a member until 1955. [A.T.S.]

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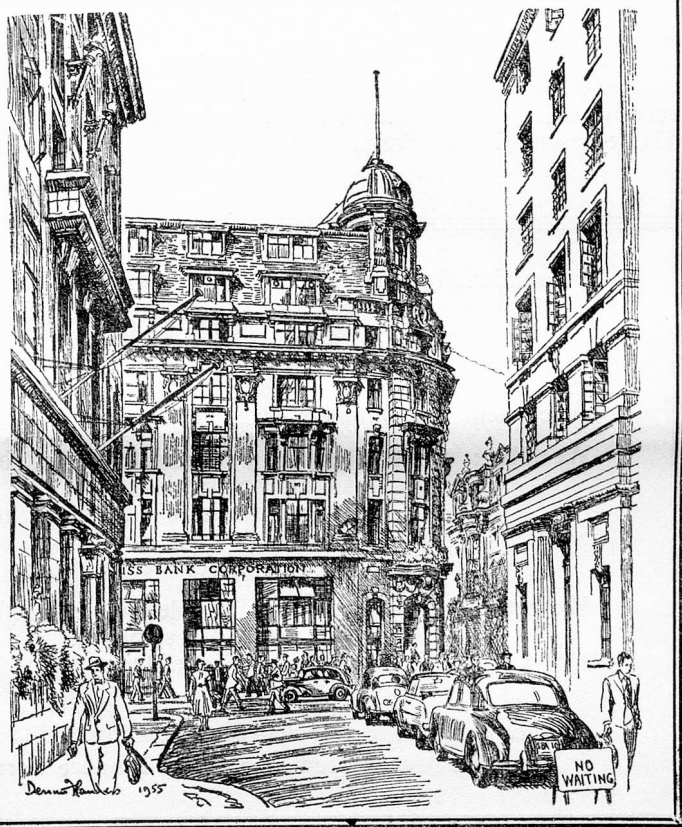
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## ANNIVERSARIES

Ernst Grossniklaus (90), of St. Imier, publisher of the paper "Jura Bernois", which is celebrating this year its 100th jubilee.

Frl. Anna Spuehler (90), well-known landscape painter, and at one time drawing mistress at the "Bezirksschule" Aarau.

[A.T.S.]

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## BANK DIVIDENDS

Obwaldner Gewerbe Bank, Sarnen, 6% (1960: 5½%); Solothurnische Leihkasse, Solothurn, 7% (1960: 6%); Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Basel, 5% (1960: 5%); Bank Leu & Co. A.G., Zurich, 10% (1960: 10%); Solothurner Handelsbank, Solothurn, 8% (1960: 8%). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

## LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

Dr. ing. h.c. Julius Hausammann-Schmidt, builder of the Grimsel Dam, who died a few years ago, left 100,000.— frs. for the creation of a "Julius Hausammann-Studien Fonds". Recently his wife died, leaving various legacies to charitable organisations in the commune of Männedorf, and to the above-mentioned Fonds, amounting to over two million francs. In addition, the deceased left her valuable property, consisting of two houses and a barn and considerable land, to the commune, to be used as a home for old people of both sexes. [A.T.S.]

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## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Two people were killed and five seriously injured in a head-on collision between two motor-cars on the road between Maienfeld and Landquart. Those killed were Max Graber (19), student, of Truebbach, and Felix Hofmann (18).

Two persons were killed and one seriously injured when two motor-cars collided at Rheinfelden. Those killed were Ilse Morgner, of Bensberg, and Fritz Buser-Wittwer (57), representative, of Basle.

[A.T.S.]

## VARIOUS

In 1961, 1,404 people were killed in road accidents in Switzerland, and 36,250 injured, an increase over 1960 of 8 per cent. The number of motor vehicles increased by 12½% in 1961.

Dr. Robert Bauder (Berne) has tendered his resignation as Central President of the Swiss Touring Club.

The 12th Federal Yodelling Competition will be held in Lucerne from 29th June to 1st July.

The 60 million francs loan at 4½% issued in Switzerland for the Kingdom of Denmark was considerably over-subscribed, and allocations had to be cut.

A military plane, which had taken-off from the airport at Sitten, was attacked by two eagles near Morges. One of the birds flew directly into the machine, and its wings became entangled in the motor, necessitating an emergency landing. The damage to the machine is estimated to be several thousand francs.

The Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G. Winterthur have received an order for a Diesel engine, to be built into an 8,250-ton cargo boat, from the Elma, Empresa Lineas Maritimas Argentinan.

A jury of the British Association of Gramophone Discs Distributors has awarded first prize for 1961 to a recording of "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov played by the "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" under the conductorship of Ernest Ansermet.

The accounts for 1961 of some of the cantons have just been published:

Fribourg	..... credit balance	420,101.— frs.
Zug	..... credit balance	173,350.— frs.
Appenzell I.Rh.	..... debit balance	37,397.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

## SWISS SHORTWAVE SERVICE

We draw the attention of our readers to the fact that from 6th May 1962, the daily broadcasts for Great Britain and Ireland will include an International News Bulletin, and also Swiss News of International Interest. It will start about five minutes after the beginning of the broadcast, i.e. at 6.50 p.m. GMT, on wavelengths 41.61 m. and 31.43 m.

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