

Swissair's million by jet

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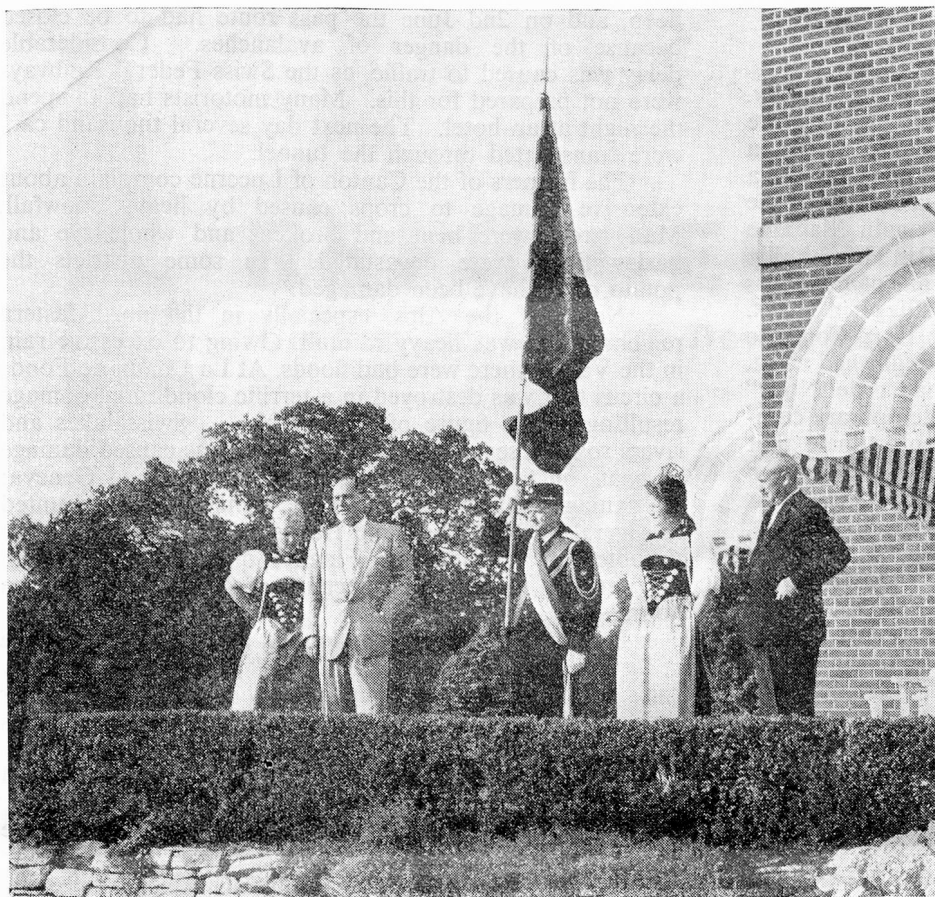
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Mr. W. A. de Vigier, flanked by the two yodellers, the flag bearer and Mr. H. Morf, President of the Stadtmusik Solothurn, welcoming his guests at the Garden Party.

provided an admirable stage. The band sounded even better in the open than in the concert hall. For the alphorn, too, it was a perfect setting, and the drummers could swing their sticks to their hearts' content without fear of overwhelming the audience. A sumptuous buffet was laid out in a spacious marquee, and even the proverbial bad weather did for once not spoil the arrangements which were on a most lavish scale. The host and hostess received gifts of flowers and two beautiful pictures of Solothurn from the Swiss visitors, and Mr. de Vigier in his turn presented the Band with an English silver tray engraved with the names of all the musicians partaking in the London visit.

It was indeed a very happy and carefree party greatly enjoyed by all, and my only regret was that I had to leave early because of another engagement.

The Stadtmusik spent a very memorable week in London. On the day of the concert they were entertained

by the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker at a cocktail party at the Embassy. One evening they visited "My Fair Lady", where the solid block of uniformed men in the stalls created quite a stir. Their arrival at Victoria on 10th June was reported in the ITV News, and they went to Lime Grove to appear in the television programme "To-Night". The band was also invited to Wellington Barracks to hear one of the famous military bands, that of the Irish Guards, whose conductor, Major Jaeger, was greatly impressed by the Stadtmusik, particularly as every member of it is an amateur.

Finally, the drivers of the coaches who took the band round London during the whole week made a point of commenting on the excellent behaviour and extreme tidiness of the Swiss party!

Altogether it was a successful stay and a magnificent birthday present, not least to the three benefiting charities.
Mariann.

SWISSAIR'S MILLION BY JET

Swissair has carried more than one million passengers by jet in less than two years, its April traffic figures show. The airline started jet operations at the end of May 1960 with the Caravelle. Now it has Caravelles, DC-8s and Convair 990 Coronados and uses only jets on its major routes, which stretch as far as Chicago, Buenos Aires and Tokyo.

During April the capacity offered by Swissair was about the same as the figure for the whole of 1952 and showed an increase of 26 per cent over April 1961,

Passenger traffic rose 28 per cent and mail rose 22 per cent, but freight dropped 19 per cent, compared with April 1961. Of the offered total of 32,931,000 ton-kilometres, 16,261,000 ton-kilometres were utilised, giving a load factor of 49.8 per cent, compared with 52.3 per cent.

The load factor across the North Atlantic went up from 46.9 per cent to 50.6 per cent, due to a 14-per-cent increase in demand. The highest load factor for the month — 53.3 per cent — was on the Far East routes,