

"Zermatt Saga"

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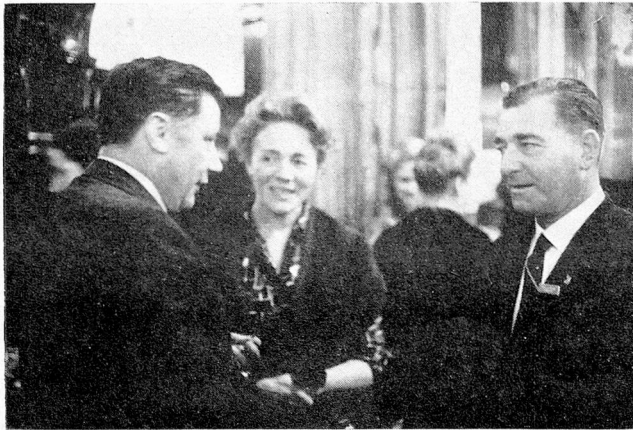
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Mr. E. Burgazzi, U.K. Deputy Manager of Swissair, in conversation with the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Mr. Paul Guntern, President of the Leukerbad Tourist Office.



Enjoying the Valais wines. In the foreground can be seen Mr. Max Keller, U.K. Manager of Swissair, and Mr. J. P. Christen, Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council.

"ZERMATT SAGA"

Cicely Williams

Author of *Bishop's Wife — But Still Myself*
With a Foreword by SIR ARNOLD LUNN

Readers of Cicely Williams' previous book, will know of her passionate attachment to alpine Switzerland, and in particular to the mountain village of Zermatt. In *Zermatt Saga* — written as the centenary of the first ascent of the Matterhorn approaches (14th July 1865) — the author begins the story of Zermatt in ancient times, tells again the epic of that July day in 1865 which brought both glory and disaster to Whymper and his party, and follows the history of the growing village up to the outbreak of the last war. She then takes her readers behind the scenes and unfolds aspects of Zermatt life known only to few, but familiar to her through many years of intimate acquaintance with Zermatt people. The closing chapters resume the saga, and show Zermatt entering the modern world. The unexpected typhoid epidemic of 1963 is briefly described and put into proper perspective.

Though more objective than *Bishop's Wife*, the *Saga* will again captivate readers owing to its writer's gift of intimate self-communication. Few will escape her infectious enthusiasm.

Published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin, 192 pages.
Illustrated. About 36s. net.

"THE DEEP FREEZE GIRLS"

Eva Défago

"The Deep Freeze Girls" is the title of a book which has recently appeared on best-seller lists in English-speaking countries. The story centres around a genteel boarding school for girls, located on the shores of Lake Geneva. The English-language "Weekly Tribune", published in Geneva, recently printed an interview with the author Mrs. Eva Défago-Wirz, the wife of an *hôtelier* from Champéry, in the Valais. Mrs. Défago stated that she was already at work on her next book, a literary treatment of the theme 'life in a hotel'.

ART TREASURES OF THE VALAIS

The growing city of Martigny, in the fertile Lower Valais, is the starting point for journeys up the Great St. Bernard. In honour of the opening of the new St. Bernard Road Tunnel, the city has organized an exhibition of art treasures of many types from the Valais. Some are state-owned, some privately owned, and some belong to the Augustinian Order's institution at the top of the St. Bernard Pass and to its various parishes. A few of the *objets d'art* date from the ancient Roman Empire, while others are as relatively recent as the "Biedermeier" era. Among the Roman relics are some particularly interesting small statues of Venus and a three-horned head representing a bull-god. The medieval part of the exhibition includes some outstanding statues, chalices, monstrances and procession-crucifixes. There is an especially rich selection of furniture in the style of Ludwig XIII, including a comfortable armchair with movable wings and back-rest — quite modern in its conception.

A part of the exhibition is located in the successfully restored seventeenth-century manor house of the Gagnioz family.

S.N.T.O.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR GENEVA INDUSTRY

Two Geneva firms, the Charmilles Engineering Works Ltd. and the Sécheron Engineering Works Ltd. have just been commissioned to construct the turbines and alternators for the new power station at Bitsch in the Valais. The Bitsch underground power station, supplied by the waters of the Aletsch glacier, is designed to hold three groups, only two of which will be installed during the first stage, i.e. by 1967. These hydro-electric groups are to be the most powerful in Switzerland; each of them will consist of a Charmilles pelton-type turbine with a vertical axle and four jets developing a maximum of 143,000 h.p. under a head of 2,418 feet and driving a Sécheron triphase alternator of 120,000 kVA maximum at 375 r.p.m. It should be added that the planning of the Bitsch Power Station as well as the supervision of the work has been awarded to the General Company for Industry, also of Geneva.

[O.S.E.C.]