

Schweizerbund (Swiss Club) : Christmas Dinner

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SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB)**Christmas Dinner**

The saying goes that Christmas comes but once a year. This is true enough, though there is more than one Christmas party for the Editor. There would be even more if ladies were admitted to certain gatherings. Fortunately, the Editor genuinely enjoys all these social functions and does not mind writing about them afterwards, specially if they are as pleasant as the Schweizerbund get-togethers usually are.

Already following the Extraordinary General Meeting on 29th October, a successful dinner was held at the Glendower Hotel in South Kensington. The meeting had been called to deal with the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom.

The traditional Christmas Dinner of the Club took place on Friday, 17th December, at the Montana Hotel. Again it took the form of a *Fondue Bourguignonne*. A record number of forty-six members and guests attended. In recent years, such participation in a single social function of the Club had not been known.

Mr. V. Berti welcomed the members and guests who included Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hatz, Development Manager of British Railways (Southern Region), Mr. Ashman of Wayfarers' Travel Agency and Mrs. Mariann Meier, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

The Chairman regretted the absence of Mr. Burgunder, Vice-Consul, this being the last function of the Club before his departure from London. It had been mainly due to his staunch support and energetic efforts that a large number of young members of the Embassy staff joined up. In fact, no fewer than twenty of them were present at the dinner.

The *Fondue* was a great success, not least because of the accompanying *Dôle de Sion*. Soon a happy sing-song started in the traditional manner with many of the older generation joining in with vigour. Members and friends were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Burgunder later in the evening. The Editor was sorry that she had to leave before the party came to an end. She took with her, however, an excellent idea which the President had expounded earlier in the evening. The suggestion was that young Swiss from this country might enjoy a party visit to the HOME at DUERRENAESCH, say, during the Easter Holidays. It would provide a splendid opportunity of getting to know part of Switzerland, combined with talks, films and visits to specially selected places of interest. This idea is certainly worth going into and has been passed on to the appropriate quarters. Young readers' views are invited.

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MANCHESTER-ZURICH RECORD

In the night of 11th/12th December a Swissair 990A Coronado jet (HB-ICF) established a new Manchester-Zurich record with a flying time of one hour eight minutes for the distance of 627 miles. Average ground speed was 625 m.p.h. including an instrument approach to Zurich. The aircraft was commanded by Capt. R. Burkhardt.

ALFRED BURKHALTER †

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Alfred Burkhalter of 104 Allison Road, London N.8. He died after a long illness on 21st December. With him the Swiss community has lost another faithful old member.

Alfred Burkhalter was born on 6th January 1892, a citizen of Rüegsau (Berne). He was brought up at Gampelen by the mother of the late Federal Councillor Scheurer.

The young Bernese learned the trade of *pâtissier* first at Utzenstorf and finished his training at Bätterkinden. He then worked in Bienne and Berne and came to England in 1913. He stayed in London ever afterwards, with the exception of military service in Switzerland during part of the first world war.

In 1917, he met Miss Helene Weber, and the young couple got married two years later. The happy partnership was not only confined to marriage and home, but also to business. In 1930, the Burkhalters started their first bakery in Vauxhall. Unfortunately, this was bombed. In 1947 Mr. Burkhalter started his successful bakery business in Seven Sisters Road, from which he retired in 1957.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhalter had a son and a daughter. It was their sorrow that she died at the early age of 20.

Mr. Burkhalter was a staunch supporter of the Schweizerbund of which he was Vice-President. He was also a member of the Swiss Mercantile Society and of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

In his activities in the Swiss community, too, he was supported by his wife who is also a member of the Committee of the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club). Our deep sympathy goes to her and her family in their sad bereavement.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AMONGST
THE SWISS IN LIVERPOOL**

The "Swiss Ladies' Club of Liverpool" was founded some thirty years ago by Mrs. G. O. Davidson and since then has continuously been under the very able guidance of this compatriot. This year, the Club invited again the children of our compatriots on Merseyside to a Christmas celebration.

On 14th December some twenty children and their parents gathered around the Christmas Tree in a festively decorated hall in the centre of Liverpool. After the traditional Christmas Tea, at which many delightful sweetmeats were served by the Swiss ladies, the whole assembly sang carols. Then presents were distributed to the children, and also to the parents, by Mrs. Davidson.

The Swiss Consul in Manchester and Mrs. Brunner were present at this Christmas Celebration.

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