

The Swiss Club of Dunfermline in 1965

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

THE SWISS CLUB OF DUNFERMLINE IN 1965

For the twenty-eighth time, the members of the Swiss Club Dunfermline Fife, met for their Annual General Meeting on 8th November. From the President's report on the activities during the past twelve months, it could be seen that membership had slightly gone down. Apart from Honorary Members, there were sixteen active (nineteen in 1964) and twenty-two passive members.

Mr. E. Schoenenberger, further reported that fourteen meetings had taken place. One of the nine monthly gatherings was followed by a popular Fondue Party. In January, a film show was presented. The "Fastnachts-unterhaltungsabend" in February, too, was again a great success, and the traditional "Fastnachtschuechli" proved an attraction for many. On 10th June, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer honoured the Club with their presence. Attendance was most gratifying, and quite a number of Swiss from the Club in Edinburgh took part. The Swiss National Day was celebrated on 7th August around a bonfire and with a Barbecue Party.

If membership is lower than in most Swiss societies South of the Border, participation percentage-wise is much higher, and even the "passive" members are active indeed.

On the personal side, two members were able to celebrate their 85th birthdays in 1965, Mrs. Selina Vogt and Mrs. Anna Lienhard. Mrs. Vogt lives with her son Walter at 16 Blacklaw Road, Mrs. Lienhard with her daughter Mrs. A. B. Dobbie at 61 Aberdoner Road, both in Dunfermline. The President and Mrs. Schoenenberger both qualified as septuagenarians during the year.

On the other side of the age scale, Mr. Hansjörg Frick, son of the Swiss Consular Agent for Scotland and Mrs. Bruno Frick, got married in June to Miss Brigitte Gibbins. Mr. and Mrs. Rudi Luessi's daughter Yvonne got married in July to Mr. Ian McRoberts.

Best wishes go to the old "birthday members" as well as to the young couples.

(Based on the Club's Annual Report.)

RECEPTION AT THE SWISS EMBASSY

On 27th January, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Béat de Fischer gave a Cocktail Reception at their Residence in Bryanston Square. About 200 personalities from the Swiss community were invited. The Ambassador recalled that at last year's Colony Reception he had read a paper on the *Présence* of Switzerland in Great Britain. Changes and additions had been made to the report, and a second edition would presently be available.

Dr. H. W. Egli, in his capacity as President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom, thanked the Ambassador and Madame de Fischer for their generous hospitality. He also expressed sincere appreciation of the work the Ambassador did both as representative of Switzerland and in the interest of the Swiss community in the British Isles. Dr. Egli said he would like to see many more of the Swiss resident in this country take an active interest in the work of the societies and organisations, especially once the Swiss Centre will afford a unique opportunity for an intensified *Présence* of Switzerland in Great Britain.

ALFRED KNAPP †

Manchester Swiss Club has once more lost one of its good old members, when, on the 8th December 1965, Alfred Knapp died after a short illness.

Alfred Knapp was born on the 5th of January 1885 in Rueti, Zurich, the eldest son of Alfred Knapp. The family removed to Basle and it is there that Alfred spent most of his childhood years, happy together with his five sisters and brothers. After leaving school and after a successful "Banklehre" at the Bank von Speyr & Cie, he took a post in 1905 in the Chemical Industry with Messrs. Sandoz in Basle. Being a go-ahead young man, the firm sent him for further education and experience to their branch in Bradford, also to enable him to become proficient in the English language. After four years in Bradford, Alfred Knapp was moved to Manchester and in 1915, Sandoz opened a branch office there. In due time he became manager of this branch.

In 1919 Alfred Knapp married Margoth de Groot, a cheerful and happy companion for him. Unluckily there were no children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Knapp are remembered by many Swiss in the North of England for their happy and hospitable home.

Alfred Knapp retired in 1949. He thoroughly enjoyed the leisure after all the strenuous previous years in business. The garden at their pleasant home in Sale became even more tended and beautiful, as they worked with great love in it, and you could not find a more beautiful show of flowers and shrubs anywhere in the district.

In the autumn of 1953 Margoth Knapp was taken ill whilst on holiday in Basle, and she died there very suddenly. Alfred Knapp returned to his home in Sale alone. Friends and neighbours helped him, and after a time he bought a bungalow near his old home where he remained until the end. His good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bilby went to live with him and to look after him. He had good companionship and great care and nursing to the end from these true friends.

Alfred Knapp was a faithful and helpful member of the Manchester Swiss Club during the whole of his life in that City, and his wife also helped with the creation of the ladies' section which was formed in 1947. He was also greatly interested in the Swiss Relief Society and was President of it for many years.

During his life in England he never forgot his homeland, and whenever he had the opportunity he returned to it to visit his family and friends and his holidays were mainly spent in or near his beloved Swiss mountains.

M.T.

PERSONAL

On 26th of February, the wedding will take place of the Rev. Marcel Dietler, Minister of the German-speaking community of the Swiss Church in London, and Miss Verena Bürgin from Basle. The marriage will be consecrated at the St. Margarethenkirche at Binningen near Basle. We wish the young couple every happiness and many years of fruitful work in the Swiss Colony.