

Recent deahts

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RECENT DEATHS

Mr. Robert-Henri Jeanneret, 84, at St. Imier, a well-known local personality. He gave a vital swing to the "Exelsior Park" watch factory and specialised in counters for sports and industry.

Mr. Françoise Buche, 77, a contractor in Lutry. He was president of the central Swiss societies of contractors and president of the international building and public works federation since 1961. He was a member of numerous federal and cantonal commissions.

Mr. Edouard Pasche, a well known political personality of Vaud, 76. He was radical delegate to the Great Council from 1929 to 1945 and *syndic* of Lavey-Morcles.

Mr. John de la Fontaine, 76, in Vevey. A solicitor by profession, he had been judge in the district tribunal in Vevey, and manager of the "Société Romande d'Electricité", the "Société Electrique Vevey-Montreux" and of "Créations Aromatiques".

Mr. Emmanuel de Trey, 91, in Pully. He was a citizen of Payerne and had made his name as an inventor. He developed dental cement out of synthetic china which is used today by dentists all over the world.

Professor Marc Bischoff, 76, in Lausanne. He was the former director of the Institute of Scientific Police at Lausanne University and a world renowned specialist in criminology. He has written 25 monographies on the scientific struggle against crime.

Mr. Henri Hess, 66, in Zurich. He had been general manager of the firm Aebi AG, a maker of building equipment, since 1946. He had also been a member of the board of Oerlikon-Buerhle and of the federal commission for problems of armaments. He was a colonel in the General Staff.

Dr. Paul H. Schulthess, genealogist and economic historian, in Basle. He worked for 20 years on the Swiss economic archives in Basle and has made extensive research into the origins of well-known Basle families. He has elicited the family tree of the Burckhardts of Basle.

Mr. Gustave Dupasquier, former *syndic* of Vuadens, Fribours, former radical representative for la Gruyère to the Great Council of Fribourg, at 89.

Franz Hirt, 84, violinist and conductor. He taught violin at the Basle conservatory and directed the Basle string quartet. He had retired to Chignysur-Morges, in Vaud.

Alfred Matthie, former commander of the frontier guards of the fifth district, at 70. He held the rank of lieutenant-colonel and commanded a battalion of cyclists during mobilisation. He comes from Nods, in the Jura.

Colonel Ruf, 84, a career officer who became instructor in the infantry in 1918, holding the rank of general-staff captain. He encouraged the motorisation of the army and was appointed head of motorised troops during his last years of active service by General Guisan. He was sent on missions in Germany, France and Indo-China.

Mr. Jean-Marie Brasey, of a sudden heart-attack at the age of 52, Estavayer, Fribourg. Having passed his degree in literature at the University of Fribourg, he was editor of the "Journal d'Estavayer" of the "Almanach de la Broye" for about 20 years. He became local correspondent of la "Liberté" in 1966.

Dr. Rudolf Müller-Popp, 65, cantonal chemist of Basle. He was inspector of food and water hygiene in Basle and was in charge of devising chemical defences against gas poisoning of air during the war.

MISCELLANEOUS

A group of oceanologists met in Geneva and reported the imminent creation of a foundation, baptised "Eurocean", to favour European oceanological research. The immediate task of the foundation would be to co-ordinate the development of underwater instruments, so that they could be produced at an accessible price and compete with American production. It was hoped that the foundation would benefit from governmental help, as well as from private industry. The development of oceans offered immense possibilities and it was worth providing for the future by beginning to approach these possibilities now.

* * *

The organ of the insurance companies of Switzerland reported that each season, one skier out of 70 was

victim of an accident. In 90% of cases he was injured in the course of a fall, in 10% because of a collision. The national insurance fund, which insures two-thirds of Switzerland's salaried population, registers 15,000 accidents hitting persons of independent means. The direct cost of an accident was 1,600 francs on average. This involved an expense of over 30 million francs for insurance companies. To that should be added the cost of re-education, absence from work and other indemnities.

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Eager to rationalise and be in a competitive position on the European market, the linoleum factory "Giubiasco Linoleum S.A." had to lay off a hundred of its employees over the new year. The workers were notified well in advance and the management had the full understanding of the four unions concerned. But 79 workers sent a strongly worded letter to the management without the knowledge of the unions. This letter was published in "Il Dovere", the radical Bellinzona daily. The main claim was that they had been deprived of the compensation to which they were eligible, having voluntarily relinquished wage increases. Rumours in Bellinzona were circulating that the letter had not been written by the dismissed workers, but by the recently created "Maoist" party at Ticino.

The management of "Giubiasco Linoleum S.A." rejected the workers' claim. It said that they had been receiving regular increases to keep abreast of the rising cost of living. The workers' pretention of deserving extra compensation for supposedly having foregone wage increases in the past was void, there having never been any contract to that effect. The company had given indemnities totalling 400,000 francs to the workers and had left them with benefit of the factory's total pension fund.

Many of the redundant workers were not ready to move off in another commune and start a new job because of their age. But all the workers ready to look for employment elsewhere had found a new livelihood by the end of January.

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