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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## SWISS ACTIVITIES IN YORKSHIRE

The Annual Dinner and Dance of the Bradford Publicity Association held on Saturday, 5th December, 1970, at the Midland Hotel, in Bradford, had as a theme "Switzerland", and as such turned out to be a brilliant and extremely well-directed function. It was attended by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, indication enough of the importance of this Association and the place it takes in the busy communities of Bradford and Leeds. The President, Mr. Horrox, and the Chairman, Mr. Rushworth, can be most sincerely complimented for an extremely complex and difficult job well done. There was the Reception at the French Restaurant, the arrival of the Lord Mayor with the official guests. The guest of honour, in the absence of Consul Rolf Born, was the Vice-Consul of Manchester, Mr. Zellweger and some representatives of the Swiss Community of Bradford and the Yorkshire Swiss Club.

The dinner was served in the Prince's Ballroom, which was well-decorated with Swiss flags, national and cantonal, with Swiss posters, flower arrangements in the colours of our country, even the menu card, an example of high artistry and good taste, reflected in many ways the image of Switzerland and promised us such specialities as "Oeuf poche Davos", "Filet de sole Matterhorn", "Escalope de Veau William Tell", "Pommes Lucerne", "Pomme Basle", etc. Everything was accompanied by appropriate and well chosen aperitifs, wines and liqueurs, other drinks, and all that goes with it.

The toast and speeches—as could be expected—were of a very high standard, of great human interest and quality, and sometimes I was left wondering if we were all that good as our British friends made us out to be. Certainly to the few Swiss present it was a stimulus that we may live up to their expectations.

Dancing started to the tunes of the excellent combination provided by Bert Bentley and his music. At 11 o'clock we were surprised by a cabaret, if we could call it such. It was the appearance of our compatriot, Mr. Bertulett from Elland, Yorkshire, well known in the North under the name of "Hans of Switzerland". His songs, accompanied by the most perfect accordion playing, held the audience spellbound. In his songs was the very soul of Switzerland, which spoke to us in all its moods; sometimes sad, other times happy and boisterous, from a whisper to a crescendo, but always very direct and very moving. One little modest song where mention is made of Lucerne and Weggis, the whole audience joined in most wholeheartedly and in some of its more

physical consequences even the Lord Mayor gave his support.

A lovely evening indeed, to be remembered and treasured for a long time.

On Tuesday, 5th January, 1971, the Swiss of Bradford and Leeds flocked together at the Leeds Council House, Social Centre, in Leeds where the Yorkshire Swiss Club had organised its "Swiss Supper and Specialities" thus opening most fittingly our 1971 activities. Thanks to the efforts of our joint Secretaries, Mrs. Edith Lerch and Mrs. Ruth Leathly, and some other ladies of our Club, it proved to be a great success. Several members of our Club contributed most generously towards the creation of a superb buffet-table, decorations, illuminations, etc. It was a home-made affair consisting of a great and appetising variety of salads, meats, cakes, Swiss Christmas and other specialities. Thanks to a "Military style" operation all this was most happily complimented with a good supply of "Bartholdi Schueblig" straight from London. Our President, Professor Inebnit, presented us with some drinks which were well received by everyone present.

We were particularly pleased to welcome amongst us some very good friends from the Manchester Swiss Club and in particular Mr. S. Hanna, whose name is gradually becoming famous in the educational field all over the world. His film records are of an educational nature, dealing also with the records of local crafts which are gradually becoming extinct. This time of year such a journey is neither pleasant nor particularly safe and we could only hope that they did not regret the long, hazardous road to reach us.

For this type of evening it was our great fortune to have been able to engage the support of "Hans of Switzerland" and he contributed with his accordion, his songs and vitality, to the great success of our evening and the audience tried to follow him in some of the tunes as best they could. This was particularly the case when by special request he led us in the song of "Lahaut sur la Montagne", almost in memory of Henry Money who left us many years ago.

In the New Year Message to us, our President, Professor J. Ph. Inebnit, reminded us of the life and activities of some of our departed friends who in the past had influenced the activities of our Northern Clubs: Henry Money being one, and in the case of the Yorkshire Clubs, the honorary President J. Jenny who reached a very great age. The words of our President were very warmly applauded, especially as we knew that he practically tore himself from the warm shelter of his home, not having fully recovered from an attack of influenza which had struck the whole

household. Since then I have heard that he has been admitted to hospital for further treatment and all our thoughts and good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery go with him.

As for us, inevitably the evening neared its end, and our regrets at having to leave mingled with the hope that thanks to the efforts of our committee we may meet soon again, in good health and under similar circumstances.

(Ermanno Berner)

## RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF A SWISS STORY TELLER

Most of the first English editions of the works of Swiss authors are celebrated by a cocktail in the Embassy's Reception. This time, the happy beneficiary of such an honour was the Swiss writer from Solothurn, Peter Bichsel, whose "*Stories for Children*" was published in English and on the stalls in February. Mr. Bichsel has written other books, the first of which, "*Eigentlich möchte Frau Blum den Milchmann kennenlernen*", earned him, according to the blurb of the English version, some measure of international fame and the "Gruppe 47" award. The title reads in English: "And really Frau Blum would very much like to meet the milkman", which sounds even more unusual than in German. Two other books of Bichsel's are "*Die Jahreszeiten*" (1967) and "*Des Schweizers Schweiz*", two political essays published in 1969. Peter Bichsel was a schoolmaster for 15 years and has his own children. This, he told me, had some influence in prompting him to try to write a book for children. He had heard of the great Enid Blyton but, judging from his "*Stories for Children*", did not look towards her and her "Famous Five" for inspiration. The seven stories

## The Institute for Swiss Trade Promotion

Swiss Centre  
10 Wardour Street  
London, W1V 3HG  
Tel: 01-734 5889

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