

Society and social scene

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SOCIETY AND SOCIAL SCENE

SADLY, Henry von Gunten is no longer with us. He died quickly and peacefully on August 7 as a result of a heart attack in the Simplon Tunnel aboard a train bound for Locarno.

He must have been in a happy, relaxed mood. He had just spent a pleasant week with his daughter and two of his granddaughters at Zermatt where he enjoyed himself in his beloved Alps and celebrated once more the First of August in true Swiss fashion.

He was cremated in the Ticino and his ashes were interred in his wife's grave in Suhr on August 13 at a quiet ceremony attended only by his nearest and dearest.

Henry Eugene von Gunten was born on July 11, 1914, a burgher of Gunten/Sigriswil. He spent his childhood and early school years in Panex (Vaud) and subsequently continued his education at the Kantonschule Aarau and at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich where he graduated as a mechanical engineer.

He joined Brown Boveri in

The colony loses Henry von Gunten

Baden but left in January 1934 to work for a company of aircraft manufacturers in the UK, evidently attracted to the industry as a result of his experience as a pilot officer in the Swiss Army.

It was during this period that he married Martha Wildi from Suhr who gave him a son and a daughter, René and Jacqueline. Both children are married, living in this country, and their five daughters were always a source of delight to their grandfather.

In late 1937 Henry returned to Brown Boveri, this time taking up a position with the British company. His skill as an engineer and his proven ability as a salesman earned him not only an important managerial position but also respect and renown at the international congresses of combustion engineers which he attended regularly. He retired just over a

year ago.

Henry always believed in hard work but somehow also managed to find time for a number of other pursuits. He was a great gymnast, was fond of walking and had a passion for mountaineering. He loved music and, particularly since his retirement, spent many happy hours with his violin.

The London Swiss Colony was particularly lucky to have his unstinted support. He was a member of many of our societies but was perhaps most active within the circle of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. He attended a number of Assemblies of the Swiss Abroad and was indeed on the way to this year's Lugano meeting when he died.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to think of Henry von Gunten as a friend would have wished him a longer retirement,

but will long remember him with a great deal of affection.

We will miss him for his tremendous zest for life, his infectious enthusiasm, his wry humour, his happy laughter, his love of a good wine, his funny accent, the patience and dignity with which he bore his operation three years ago and his resultant disability — in short for everything which made him the lovable and well-loved character he was.

HENRY JAUSLIN

Good luck to loyal friends

THE news that Marianne and René Glarner are returning to Switzerland is a great disappointment for many.

They have been so much part of the life of the Swiss community in London that it is difficult to imagine it without their presence. Individually and as a couple they have been making many valuable contributions to the activities of the Swiss colony.

Marianne was president of the Women's Circle and worked for the Swiss Church and welfare organisations quietly, efficiently and behind the scenes. She, like her husband, was a member of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique whose vice-president he has been for two years. The same office he also held with the Swiss Benevolent Society.

He was a member of the City Swiss Club, of the Consistoire of the Swiss Church and chairman of the German-speaking Parish Council of the Swiss Church. These are only a few of his many activities. No wonder that the Glarner will be missed.

They were not only respected for the valuable help and assistance they were always ready to give. It was their personalities, their friendliness and kindness, their reliability which made them such a popular couple.

They have now returned to Switzerland and will reside in St. Gall. René has left an important position here in order to take up another one with the same company, Bühler Bros. of Uzwil. They have promised that they will come back often, and this makes the parting from their many friends just a little easier.

A big thank-you and much happiness and the best of luck to them and their family. Farewell — not goodbye.

MM

It may be one of the youngest Swiss clubs in the United Kingdom, but the Bournemouth Swiss Club is also one of the most active.

This summer they have had a cheese and wine party and a film show, and the highlight of the season was a First of August barbecue at the home of Mr and Mrs Leonard Burrows, who are pictured here with the club president, Mr Rudy Müller-Duplessis.

Their next event will be a mini tea party at the home of Mr and Mrs Müller in Dingle Road, Bournemouth.



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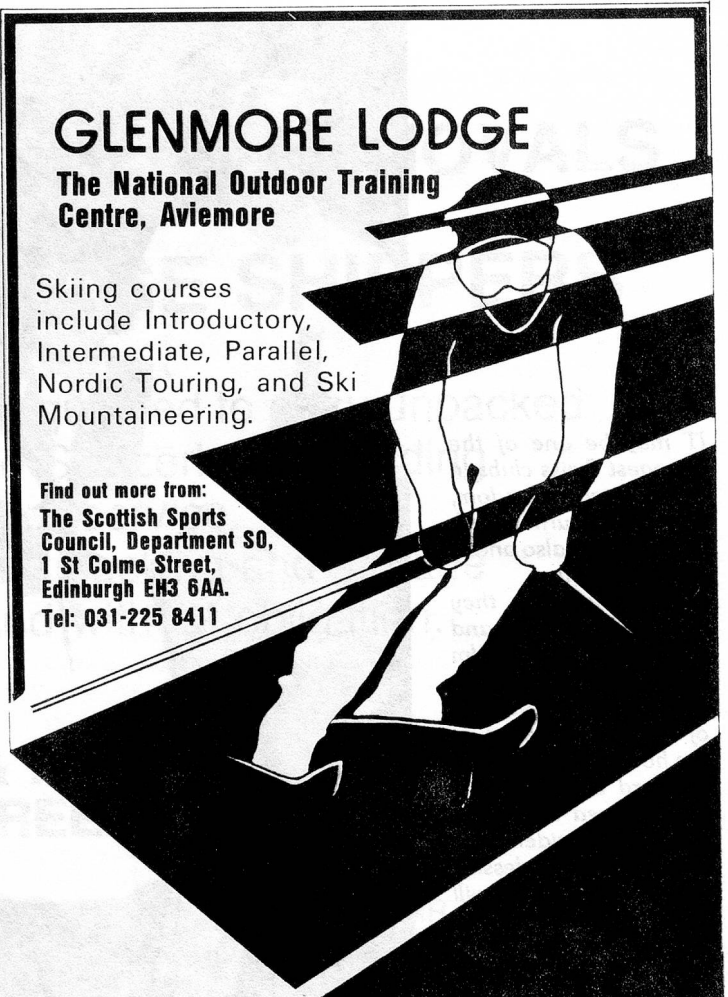
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WHEN it comes to protecting the great British public from a nuclear attack the great British bureaucracy just doesn't have a clue. Compared with the Swiss that is.

That's the experience of John Carter and his boss Terry Cramant. Not that they indulge in the current, fashionable occupation of knocking Britain. They just tell it as they found it.

And what they found here in the UK was an astonishing lack of advice on the necessary protective measures compared with the wealth of information available from Switzerland.

The story goes back to the beginning of the year. Terry, managing director of the Cramant building company of Swinton, near Manchester, had just returned from a holiday in the United States.

While over there he was struck by the Americans' concern about the possibility of a nuclear attack and their ability to survive such a holocaust. What worried him on returning home was the apathy displayed by the British public towards the matter.

So he decided to do something positive — to design and sell nuclear fallout shelters.

Contemplating the unthinkable

THE Swiss Civil Defence authorities, whose contingency plans against nuclear war are reckoned to be the best in Europe, were until recently receiving 50 inquiries a day from worried Britons. Here we tell the story of how the Swiss are educating the British on nuclear fallout shelters . . .

But how, without the necessary know how?

John, the general manager, was set the task of finding out how to design and construct such shelters. First port of call was the local authority. "Sorry," they said, "not our line of business".

The local newspaper was a little more helpful. "Try the Central Office of Information," they said. That body referred John to the Home Office, who wrote back saying they only had

some rough notes on the subject, which they duly enclosed.

So John spread his net further afield. Letters were sent out from the tiny Cramant office to Switzerland, Sweden and America. "And the Swiss," says John, "were particularly helpful".

Within days he received a thick dossier on fallout shelters from the Swiss and an invitation from the Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Civil Defence to attend a seminar in Berne.

There in a packed two day session he learned how the meticulous Swiss go about it. "They were superb," he said.

"They certainly knew what they were talking about, and we are very grateful to them for their co-operation".

Now, several weeks later, work on designs and a marketing strategy is well under way with the result that before the end of the year the company hopes to be in the nuclear shelter business.

Their intention is to market a 10 man shelter kitted out with Swiss equipment. "It's the best", says John.

The cost? Probably between £6,000 and £8,000. But without the help of the Swiss it would probably be considerably higher.

● Switzerland's nuclear contingency plans were launched after the Korean war. They led to a constitutional article laying down provisions for civil defence. As a result over 90 per cent of the Swiss population now have access to a fallout shelter, nearly all townfolk having their own.

And, of course, all buildings constructed in the last 15 years include a shelter.

Picture shows John Carter (left) and Terry Cramant with the Swiss dossier on fallout shelters.