

Two stories... but which reflects the face of modern Switzerland?

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Yorkshire Club plans a canal cruise

MR Jeffry Long, newly appointed president of the Yorkshire Swiss Club, writes to tell us of the club's programmes for the year.

There will be a Games and Social Evening on Saturday, May 14 at the Foreign Language Circle in Manningham Lane, Bradford, and the annual luncheon is planned for a Saturday (as yet unspecified) in November.

But perhaps the highlight of the Yorkshire year will be on Saturday, September 10 when club members embark on a three-hour pleasure cruise along the Leeds-Liverpool canal.

After joining the boat "Waterprince" at Shipley, the intrepid voyagers will negotiate three sets of locks - fortified perhaps by the "refreshments available on board."

EVERYONE has their own personal view of a country, whether it is their native land or an adopted one. Such opinions tend to be deep seated and based on personal experiences.

This means that such opinions can reflect only one small aspect of a country's character, as perceived by one person.

Recently the Swiss Observer received two letters which show very different opinions of Switzerland, both based on close personal experiences.

The first letter came from Mrs E. Bates of Chessington, Surrey, who relates the story of her friend who lives in Switzerland.

"She is an elderly lady living by herself, and as the winter was drawing in she attempted to cut up logs of wood but this heavy work did not help her blood pressure and in no time she became sick.

"Her doctor, a young man of about 35, ordered her to bed and said the task of cutting up wood was far too heavy for her and he could quite easily do it for her.

"To her great surprise a few days later the doctor arrived with a friend. Together they cut up the logs for her, and they were extremely pleased that they had been able to be of service.

Two stories ... but which reflects the face of modern Switzerland?

"Can you imagine our doctors cutting up wood for their patients! My doctor does not even know me, and when I visit him I am only a name on a card."

This heartwarming image was soon shattered by the arrival of a nine-page letter from Mrs E. Modrowich of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. She wrote:

"As a Swiss citizen I had always regarded by homeland as civilised, the people as friendly, kind and honest."

Her view of home was shattered earlier this year when her son, a former British soldier now working in Switzerland, and his young wife went out for a meal. Mrs Modrowich takes up the story.

"They were having a quiet, enjoyable time listening to the music and the singing. All of a

sudden a man stood up and came towards my son's wife and made advances to her, trying to kiss and touch her. She did not allow this and pushed him away, so he hit her in the face.

"To my son's surprise, the owner of the restaurant did not throw out the man. He simply laughed."

After this incident three more men joined the first, further assaulting and distressing the young couple. No one intervened.

Mrs Modrowich believes that this incident reflected the Swiss attitude towards foreign workers, even though her son is half Swiss.

Both ladies wrote with great conviction. Each believes that her story reflects the face of modern Switzerland.

Who is right?

THE ARTS

AFTER a successful exhibition at the Crafts Council in London, **Pierre Degen's** jewellery is now touring:

April 9-May 8, Gateshead (Shipley Art Gallery).

May 18-June 25, Belfast, N. Ireland (Arts Council of N. Ireland Gallery).

July 8-July 31, Londonderry, N. Ireland (Orchard Gallery).

August 9-September 3, Leeds (Temple Newsam House).

An exhibition of **Alberto Giacometti's** views of Paris, "Paris sans fin", shown first at the Serpentine Gallery in London in 1981, and which has been tour-

ing Britain since, will be shown as follows:

April 9-30, Walsall (E.M. Flint Gallery).

May 16-June 3, Birmingham (King Edward's School).

June 20-July 9, Bridgwater (Bridgwater Arts Centre).

The exhibition will later visit Taunton, Birmingham, Ayr, Rochester and Aberystwyth.

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A TALK and film on the work of the Red Cross will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7pm at the Lecture Hall of the Swiss Embassy, 16/18 Montagu Place, London W1.

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