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Christmas Message from the Swiss Ambassador

As the Christmas and New Year festivities approach, my wife and I would like to extend our very best wishes for health and happiness to you all. The end of this year coincides with the completion of our first year of activity in the United Kingdom. We are struck by the vitality of the Swiss community here and by the clear indications of its attachment to our country.

May the coming year see the strengthening of existing ties, and may it bring us a greater degree of peace and justice.

François Nordmann

Over and Out

Well my time as Editor is up, I've contributed my bit to the Information Highway and I'm now handing over to the very capable Derek

Meakin. However, before I sign off I must thank the many kind people who have given me friendship and support over this year.

I hope Derek will receive the same warm welcome as I have had and I wish him success. Meanwhile it only remains for me to wish all

readers a very happy Xmas and hoping you all have a stupendous 1996!

*With best wishes
Aileen Foletti*

Swiss team took part in European Youth Olympic Days from 10th to the 14th in Bath

During an extremely sunny period the lovely city of Bath hosted the third European Olympic Days (EYOD). 2500 young athletes from 47 countries competed in the wonderful event. The Olympic flame brought from Athens was lit by Linford Christie at the spectacular opening ceremony in the Olympic Arena and the games were opened by Princess Anne.

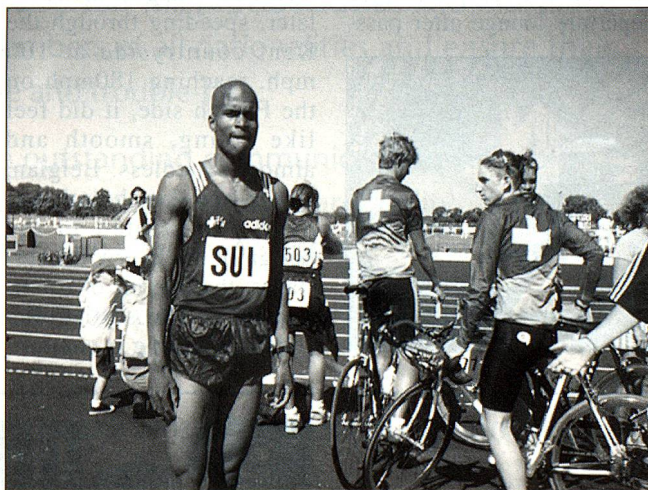
A 68 strong team from Switzerland led by Dr. Hans Ulrich Schweizer of the

Comité Olympique Suisse took part in athletics, cycling, gymnastics, judo, tennis, swimming and hockey – receiving a silver medal for cycling and gold in swimming.

They all worked hard, had a wonderful time and enjoyed their first taste of Olympic fever.

Many of the athletes seen here in Bath will be the future Olympic champions.

*Trudy Wallace, Bath
(Acted as Team Host
for the Swiss)*



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Eurostar to Europe

A pipe dream; sheer madness; a miracle of engineering; the ultimate Entente Cordiale – thus has the project of a tunnel under the English Channel been described. The vision has now become reality, and the tunnel is fully operational.

On 14th November, 1994, I was on board the inaugural Eurostar train heading for Brussels, one of the two destinations currently available on this service. (Paris is the other.)

Since 1986 when the construction of the tunnel began, the project's delays have often hit the headlines. It was an unexpected surprise, therefore to note that our departure coincided with the advertised timetable.

I left my house at 9 am, travelling by tube to Waterloo Station's Eurostar Terminal. Having pre-booked and paid for my ticket over the telephone (reservations: 0171 828-0892), I had half an hour to spare before boarding. Passing through automated check-in, I headed for the airport-style departure lounge after pass-



port control and security check.

The Waterloo international Terminal is worth a trip in itself. Nominated "Building of the Year", its 400-metre long sinuous steel and glass roof is echoed by the soft curves of the five platforms. Prize-winning British architect Nicholas Grimshaw has been praised for completing on time and on budget.

On platform 2, the 18 coaches of the Eurostar train and the smartly dressed staff – navy uniform with yellow accessories, designed by French couturier Pierre Balmain – were on stand-by. Just then, the Paris train glided in. Welcomed by a brass band and a bevy of reporters, the jubilant crowd of passengers from the French capital – no doubt fuelled by inaugural champagne – poured off the carriages.

Before boarding I took a last admiring look at this elegant and gently curving strip of silver grey steel – an elongated fuselage, a plane without wings. Minutes later, speeding through the Kent countryside at 100 mph, reaching 180mph on the French side, it did feel like flying, smooth and almost soundless. Belgian, British and French designers have co-operated in the design of the livery, the carriages, the interior of cabins and bars. The stylish and soothing, seating is comfort-

able for most, although not for a six-foot traveller wishing for more leg room.

I was hardly aware that we were on our way. Through the intercom, in three languages (English, Flemish and French) the conductor welcomed us aboard. Soon after, the trolley-bar was wheeled along (British, French and Belgian currency accepted). More substantial hot or cold meals were served in the snack bar carriages. First class passengers were offered a meal at their seat, airline-style (the cost included in the ticket price). I found from one of the multilingual attendants that a one-day travel card for Brussels' public transport system could be purchased from the bar; an identical facility exists for Paris and London.

By now we had reached Folkestone, the English Terminal boarding point for car-carrying trains (Le shuttle) via the tunnel to Sangatte near Calais; very hi-tech, like a modern airport, now also fully operational.

Quite theatrically, a voice over the intercom announced that we were about to take the plunge. Down we went, still at 100 mph. At its lowest point, the Chunnel (the official name) is 40 metres below the sea bed; it is 31 miles long (50 km), 24 of which (40 km) are under the Channel, making it the longest undersea tunnel in



the world.

The submarine part of the trip is meant to take 20 minutes; our journey went without a hitch, without feeling claustrophobic or oppressed. Rather, I was mildly euphoric; this is history in the making!

Fast and smooth, 19 minutes later, one minute ahead of schedule, we re-surfaced on French soil, speeding off to Lille, the only scheduled six-minute stop.

I left my seat to explore the train: automatic doors, special spaces for disabled passengers with wheelchairs, children's play areas and fully-equipped nurseries, two coin/credit card operated telephones.

Was this the cupola of Brussels Palais de Justice we could now see emerging in the distance? Six minutes ahead of time, Eurostar entered the Gare du Midi.

The train journey lasted a seamless three hours and nine minutes; five hours from door to door. It was a hassle-free and relaxing journey.

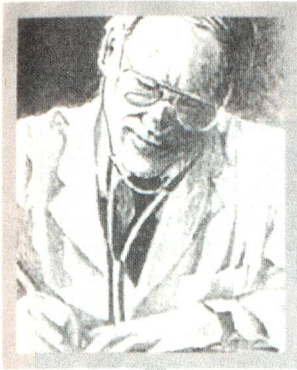
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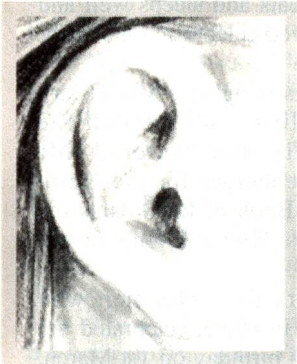
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Ulrich Inderbinen

Ulrich Inderbinen has become a legend. He will soon be 95 years old and at the time of writing is still an active Mountain Guide.

It is therefore not surprising that his long life dedicated to the mountain world, to the climbing of countless peaks and to the caring of his 'guests' is soon to be the subject of a biography.

Ulrich has many memories and fascinating tales to recount but if fame is to be his forever it is mainly because he has always remained true to himself, to his own and honest sense of values. Strength and courage,

modesty and self-discipline, faith and joie de vivre are the hallmarks of his character. His secret for longevity is alleged to be: a taste of all good things in life, but always in moderation...

One late afternoon, in the spring, as little as three or four years ago, two parties of climbers made their way up to the Schönbiel Hut situated across the valley from the north face of the Matterhorn. One was guided by Ulrich Inderbinen, the other by one of the younger generation of Zermatt guides. As is often customary our party of climbers left their skis at the

bottom of the last slope before the hut, ready to be picked up early next morning for the crossing to Arolla. The route takes you over the crevassed and extremely steep glacier slopes west of Zermatt: a long and often quite demanding tour.

Much to our astonishment, Ulrich and his party came on past us, carrying their skis right up to the hut.

'Strange' thought the 'young'. 'Can't he bear to be parted from his skis or could it be that he considers it unethical to leave some equipment behind and save effort?'

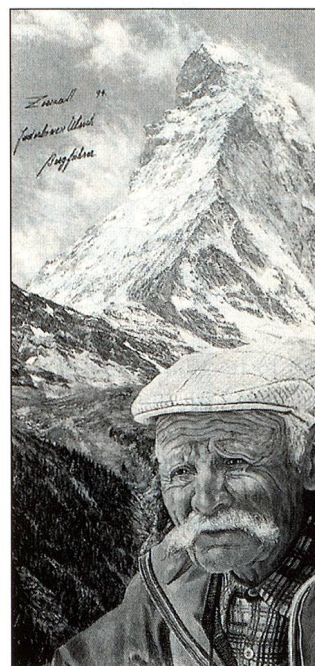
The answers to our questions were there the next morning, when in the semi-darkness of the early morning we slithered and painfully eased our way down the slope to collect our skis, which were now iced up through freezing overnight temperatures.

'Swish' we heard, as Ulrich, a small agile figure skied elegantly past us in short turns and in no time reached the bottom of the slope.

He and his party started their climb with a significant advantage in both time and energy saving!

Once again the maestro with his immense experience and understanding of the mountains had shown others the way...

Elisabeth Upton-Eichenberger



A Swiss for the Guinness Book of Records?

On 28th July, Mr P.Karl Eichenberger celebrated his 106th birthday. He is the oldest Swiss in the UK and lives in Bournemouth. Although he is rather handicapped, he still eats and sleeps well and enjoyed celebrating his birthday.

His daughter, Mrs Hilary Phillips, told me that the family had entered Mr Eichenberger for the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest Swiss living in the UK.

Mrs Kate Monnier, who lives in Hove, celebrated her 100th birthday on 1st March. All our belated best wishes to her and her family. It is quite possible that there are other centenarians in the Swiss community. I believe there is another Swiss living in Hampshire who will be 106 this winter. Do let us know about anyone on the verge of becoming a centenarian or who may already have passed their 100th birthday. Our readers would like to share in congratulating compatriots who reach such an unusual venerable age.

Mariann Meier



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Villaging – by Orsolina Cramb

To admit that one lived in a village when I was a teenager in the 1950s in Switzerland was not an attribute. "I live near" and then mentioning the nearest sizeable town is what villagers said. I was invited to spend a weekend with a girl friend who said that she lived near a town. I was surprised that we had to walk several miles in the dark after leaving the railway station.

I loved this walk, it was a clear frosty winter's night. We arrived at the farmhouse, dim light showed in two windows, the house stood quietly and darkly against the night sky. I saw a gable and two wooden balconies that skirted the two floors below. It was a Bernese wooden farmhouse standing alone in a winter landscape.

We entered into a dimly

lit passage lighted by an oil lamp. The door on the left opened. "Is that you, Therese?" Therese took me into a warm wood panelled low ceilinged room. Mother and father sat at a table, a paraffin lamp hanging from the ceiling gave enough light to read by. A large tiled stove in the corner smelt of wood burning. "I brought my friend," Therese said. I shook hands with Therese's parents.

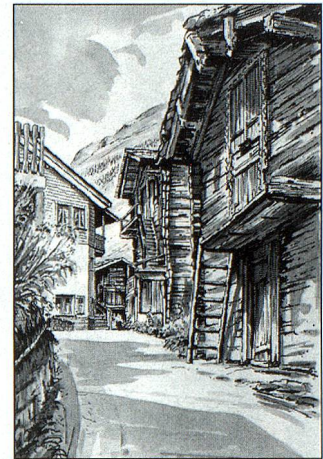
We were given "Rösti", a Bernese fried potato dish with a fried egg for supper. I shall never forget the taste of this plain meal. The egg melted in my mouth, the potatoes had a rich flavour, cooked in a little bacon fat. The livestock lived under the same roof as the people. I could smell the hay from the table. We went to bed with a lighted candle, to a

plain little bedroom. The toilet was out on the veranda.

The veranda ran right around the building. It was under the overhanging roof, but not enclosed. The space was used to keep wood and washing dry.

Quiet was the night I slept in this farmhouse, miles away from any town or village.

On Saturday evening we walked the several miles (about 3 miles I think) to the village. There was a young farmer's dance at the local gasthof. It had a large hall with a stage, a band played Ländler. The young farmers performed a farce on stage about the year's events in the farming calendar. A lot of laughing, clapping and beer drinking went on. My friend and I sat with a pot of tea waiting for the dancing to



start. We danced until 2 a.m. in the morning, and then walked through the starry cold night back to the farm. This visit left a great wish in me that I would like to live in the country. I was of course a 'townee' and a romantic.

● *This is an extract from a selection of stories by writer and artist Orsolina Cramb who lives in Devon.*

Try this recipe for next year's summer holiday!

Are you between 15-25 and about to start planning next year's summer holiday? Then may I make a suggestion? Adventure, encounters, experiences, getting to know people and making friends. These are the main ingredients of this Swiss Speciality – The Youth Exchange Program.

Adventure: You will travel alone to the country that is your second home and will be staying with a Swiss family, with rules and values possibly quite

different from those of your own family, speaking a different language.

Encounters: Every day you will experience new things, some will be similar, others quite different, things like mentality, customs and attitudes. You will meet a lot of people and make new friends.

Experiences: You will gain insight into the Swiss way of living and working, do's and don'ts, culture and many more. You will also learn to appreciate the dif-

ferences between your home country and Switzerland. Learning to deal with new and unfamiliar situations will hopefully leave you well pleased and satisfied.

Getting to know people: You will live with a Swiss family, meet their friends and other young people, share and exchange views, experiences and ideas as well as taking part in social and sports activities.

Making new friends: This is undoubtedly the most

important and hopefully long lasting aspect of this Exchange Holiday.

Having mixed all of these ingredients together add a generous portion of curiosity, tolerance, openness and interest and you will end up with an experience that will last for a very long time.

For more detailed information please contact: Margrit Lyster, Swiss Welfare Office, 31 Conway Street, London W1P 5HL - Telephone no. 0171 387 3608



So who's a Polygot then?

The answer is, just about all of us Swiss because a Polygot is a person who speaks more than one language. But, how can you help your children when they are brought up in Britain where English is the dominant language? Should you encourage a bilingual-bicultural background for your child?

Will this hinder or enhance your child's learning abilities and when is the best time to learn a new language? The subject is examined in detail by Colin Baker, Professor of Education at the University of Wales and father of three bilingual children, in his new book "A Parents' And Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism". Written in a ques-

tion and answer format it is a very positive and realistic study. Every possible question which can be posed is asked and answered in an informative way. There is for instance, even a question on stuttering with regard to bilingualism (although it is often blamed, speaking more than one language is not the cause). I could not recommend this book more highly.

It is enjoyable to read besides being an invaluable guide for families, teachers and anyone living or working among multilingual people and their children. It can be purchased from Multilingual Matters Ltd, Frankfurt Lodge, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7SJ, Telephone No. 01275 876 519

Aileen Foletti

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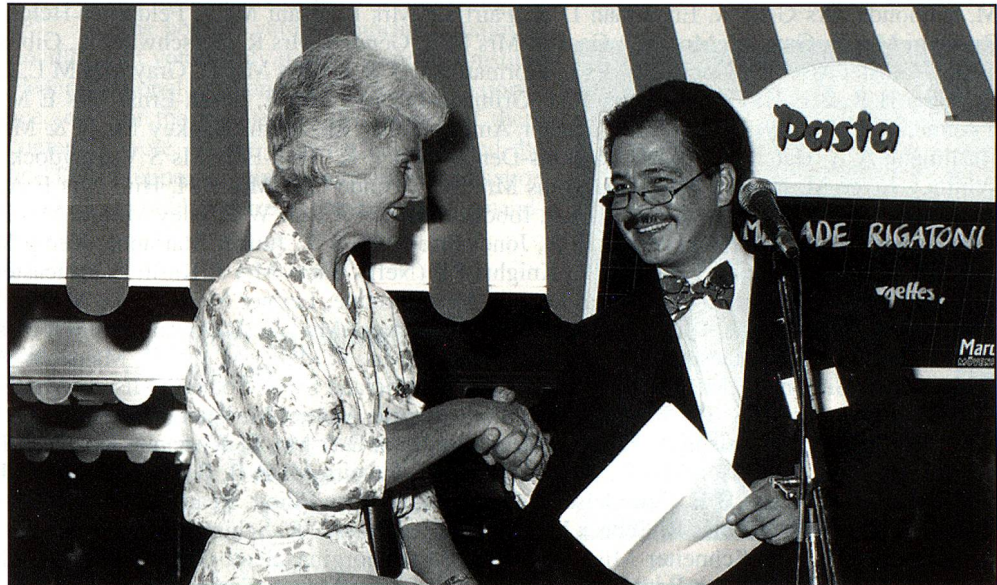
FRESH TAURANT!



Gala opening for flagship restaurant in aid of the Red Cross

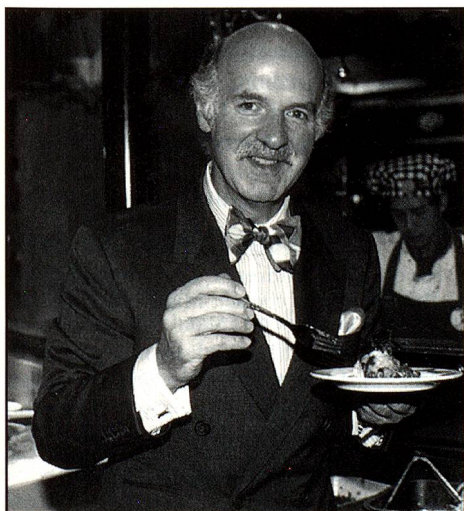
The leading Swiss company Mövenpick launched their flagship restaurant Marché in Portland House, Stag Place, Victoria, London on 5 September 1995 with a gala charity evening in aid of the British Red Cross.

The Event was held in the presence of the Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the British Red Cross, who received a £10,000 cheque from Daniel Senn, Managing Director of Mövenpick UK Ltd.



Guests came from the Anglo-Swiss, business and social communities. They were entertained by a uniquely Swiss Guuge Musig Band specially flown in from Lucerne. Anton Mosimann, chef and restaurateur joined the celebrations.

The restaurant is startlingly innovative in its design concept, with a fully-rigged sailing ship decked out as a bar. The walls are decorated with vistas of Mediterranean landscapes and market places.



The Marché is true to the principles of quality, freshness and fun and it goes without saying – it is excellent value for money! The dishes are freshly prepared in front of you in this wonderful setting and the menu changes daily depending on what is in the market that day!



Thank you to all our supporters

On behalf of the Committee of the Swiss Review U.K. pages, the Editor would like to thank the following people and clubs who have ensured the continuation of our regional news by their kind donations. Support was widespread coming from Switzerland as well as Britain. Some readers even donated twice.

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Please note: This is the complete list of names as at going to print for this issue. If any names have been omitted they will be included in the next issue.

Aileen Foletti

Diary for December

All Swiss Societies are invited to send their diary of events so that they can be published on a regular basis.

1. Southern Area Swiss Club - (Farnborough-Hampshire)

01/12 "Christmas Party" Elles Community Centre Farnborough - 8.00 pm For details contact: Ms Vreni Rudkin 01252 547 948 or Mr John Williamson 01276 - 64380

2. Swiss Club Edinburgh

03/12 "Christmas Party" For details contact: Mrs Elisabeth Davies 0131 - 441 2152

3. Swiss Club Manchester

For details contact: Ms Marianne Reuter, Tel: 01260 - 273 681

4. Swiss Club Torbay

07/12 "Coffee Morning and Raffle" 10.00 - 12.00 Odd Fellows Hall - Mince Pies

16/12 "Xmas Lunch" - 12.30 pm (Place to be confirmed)

For details contact: Mr Max Singer, Tel: 01803 - 842 355

5. Swiss Club Tyne Tees

For details contact: Mrs Nelly Scott 0191 - 536 1047

6. Swiss Rifle Association

For details contact: Mr Roy Robert, Tel: 0181 - 748 1683 or Mr Urs Scharer, Tel 0181 - 850 4117

7. Unione Ticinese

10/12 "San Nicolao" Children's Christmas Party - Hartely Hall, Mill Hill For details contact: Miss Valeria Ossola, Tel: 0171 937 6631

8. West of Scotland Swiss Club

For details contact: Mrs M.T. Cramer, Tel: 0141 - 956 5127

9. To all Swiss in East Anglia

We are planning another get-together in Nov/Dec. If you are not already on our address list and would like further information please telephone 01394 286 384 or write to: Hanni Beedel, 17 Estuary Drive, Felixstowe IP11 9TL

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