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REGIONAL NEWS UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear Readers in the United States

The International Bundesbrief Society organized a simultaneous worldwide virtual tour of full size and model trains designed to show how communication, democracy and freedom was enhanced by advances in railroad transportation technology. While looking through their information, I suddenly realized that I'm a train enthusiast!



In Peru I rode a train over the Andes, from Lima to Pucallpa and another one from Cuzco to Machu Pichu. Then there was the long ride from the Mexican border to the Copper Canyon and the one in Thailand all the way over the River Kwai bridge (of movie fame) to the Burmese border. In Argentina we used the train from Buenos Aires to the Tigre Delta formed by the river Paraná. And obviously, in Switzerland and all over Europe riding trains is a special pleasure.

Swiss Review # 2/2012 had an article "Railroad back in time" about a family here in California restoring a narrow gauge line and Swiss Review Nr. 1/2012 featured Goldi Merker with his model train installation.

And now this present Swiss Review has two articles: one from New York featuring subway cars all decked out in Swiss alpine motifs and the one on the last page, where I thought you might want to check up a bit more on our Swiss railways. And then it will happen to you just as it did to me. You really think that next time in Switzerland you have to take the train. You obviously all know about the Swiss Rail Pass. It's a special offer valid only for people living abroad. You can order them at:

<http://www.swiss-pass.com/>

Happy traveling, and happy holidays!

WAL BAUR

wbaur@roadrunner.com

North Carolina

Swiss Society of Charlotte

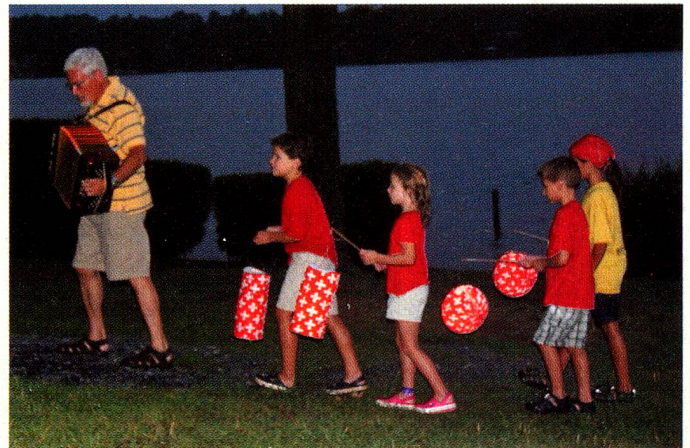
The Red Fez Club on Lake Wylie was this year again the meeting point of over a hundred people for our 1st of August National Holiday celebration. We were honored to have Roger Gross, the Vice-Consul from Atlanta, attending. He made a great effort to talk with as many Swiss as he could and listen to their concerns or comments.



Vice-Consul Roger Gross (center) in conversation with Swiss Club members

Grilled sausages and Fleischkäse with all the trimmings from the salad bar, desserts and liquid refreshments satisfied the hungry afternoon crowd. A bonfire and a lampion parade for "young and old kids" rounded out the evening.

The Boss family, Erika and Heinz together with their sons Phillip and Marcel, did an outstanding job with decorating, setting-up and grilling, but also the rest of the board members and other helpers pitched in and made the event one more time a success. A big "Thank You" goes to all of them!



The lampion parade is always a hit with young and not so young!

For further information on upcoming events (Jass-Tournament, Annual Meeting and Santa Claus), visit us on our Website:


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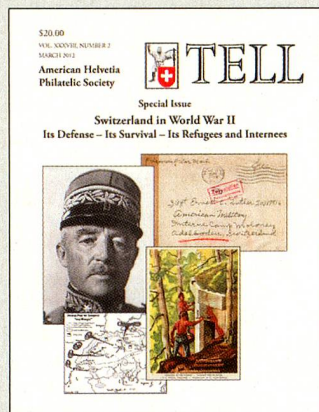
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Book Review



The years of the Second World War were difficult for Switzerland. An island of hope and democracy in a sea of fascism and horror, the Swiss faced innumerable hardships yet provided a safe haven for many of Europe's refugees and military personnel who escaped into Switzerland or were interned there. Our older readers will remember these times; our younger readers need to be reminded of them. In its March 2012 Special Issue of *TELL*, the journal of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society,



two of its members, one of whom was a Jewish refugee in Switzerland, tell the story of these turbulent years. Based on a gold-medal-winning exhibit of stamps, envelopes, and other memorabilia – over the span of



How many remember the ration stamps?

57 pages – Switzerland's preparations for its defense, its efforts to survive, and its handling of refugees and internees are recounted. How many remember soldier's mail, the ration stamps and the



How many remember the salvage campaign?

colorful labels sold to raise funds for their assistance funds? There are many more examples in the booklet. How many remember the Salvage Campaign? Here's the set of stamps issued for the campaign. How many remember seeing military internees? Here's a letter



Left: Mail from an internee. Right: Soldier's mail, front and back of envelope

from an American aviator who escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Germany to Switzerland where he was interned. Note the "Evade Post" handstamp. There are many more examples of this kind of correspondence in the booklet. These and many other things that should not be forgotten are included in this lavishly illustrated (in color) booklet. Every expat's library needs to include a copy of this historical document. When your children ask you what you or Switzerland did during the war, here's your answer.

RUDOLF KELLER

Secretary2@swiss-stamps.org

Ernest L. Bergman and Richard T. Hall: "Switzerland in World War II: Its Defense - Its Survival - Its Refugees and Internees", Special issue of *TELL*, the journal of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society, Asheville, NC, March 2012, 60 pages, \$20.00, postpaid. Available from the Society, P.O. Box 15053, Asheville, NC 28813-0053. Make checks payable to "A.H.P.S."

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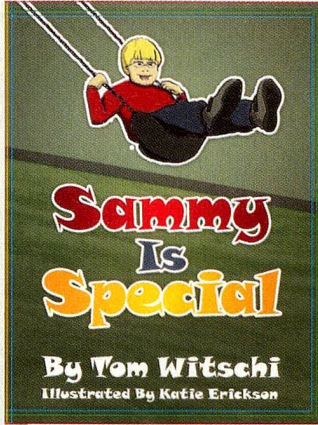
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Book Review

Sammy is Special

By Thomas Witschi, Illustrations by Katie Erickson



Thomas Witschi is Swiss. His parents are immigrants, and most of his family lives in Switzerland. He is publishing his first book. It is a picture book about Sammy, a boy with downs. Sonja is curious about the new little boy who has moved in next door. He doesn't play or act like other children. He doesn't even look like other children. Mama tells Sonja that Sammy has Down Syndrome and challenges her daughter to give Sammy a chance to be

her friend. Sonja isn't sure this is a good idea but she decides to become Sammy's friend. Sonja's decision takes her on a journey of friendship that lasts a lifetime. At every turn, Sammy is there to encourage and support her. In return, Sonja is always there for Sammy. Come along with Sonja and discover why "Sammy is Special." The book can be purchased at three sites. It is on amazon.com for \$ 17.15, barnesandnoble.com for \$ 21.99, and winepressbooks.com for \$16.05.

Book Review

Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise And Caladesi Cookbook

By Myrtle Scharrer Betz

Hans Heinrich Schaerer (1858-1934) traveled from Zurich (Wädenswil) to the United States in 1883. For five years he journeyed by train and horseback across the continent eventually finding his destiny on a barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico.

This island, now Caladesi Island State Park, was the birthplace of Henry's only child, Myrtle Scharrer Betz (1895-1992). Growing up there Myrtle experienced pioneer life first hand. Myrtle's Swiss immigrant father was an outgoing and capable man, a self taught naturalist who protected the wildlife, freedom, sustainability and beauty of the Florida barrier island. Myrtle's Irish immigrant mother, Kate, instilled wonder for shells and plants, and imparted a talent for cooking. The homestead on Caladesi was an early tourist destination; a steady stream of visitors arrived by boat to enjoy Henry's guided tour of island landmarks and the food prepared in the homestead kitchen. When Myrtle reached the age of 87 she wrote her memories of life on

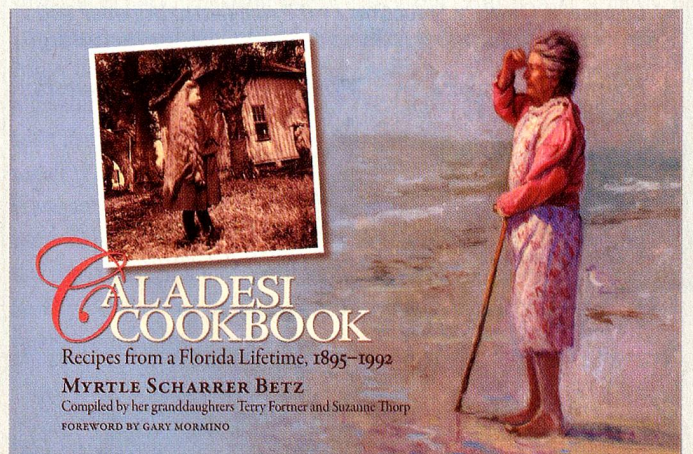
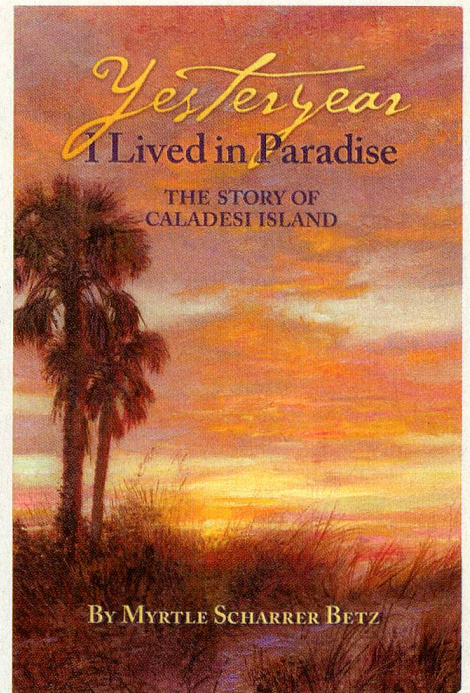
Caladesi Island, "Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise". "Told with compelling honesty and humanity, this tale by the only child ever born on the Island captures the natural wonders, discomforts, challenges, and joys of pioneer life ... spanning the time from when Henry first arrived until his death. . . more than 130 historic illustrations provide a visual legacy to complement Myrtle's narrative".

To document more of Myrtle's life story, granddaughters Terry Fortner and Suzanne Thorp compiled Caladesi Cookbook, Recipes from a Florida Lifetime, 1895-1992. "More than simply a good cookbook, it is a touching story of a lost and vanishing Florida. . . a culinary and historic treasure". Researching the recipes reinforced the direct link to Switzerland, as Henry had maintained traditions and dishes from his heritage, and had passed these recipes on to his daughter.

These books are available online at CaladesiMemories, Amazon.com. Phone orders can be placed by calling 727-786-2837.

Proceeds from book sales support the Henry Scharrer Memorial Fund to underwrite preservation, education and conservation projects at Caladesi Island State Park.

TERRY FORTNER
tcf53@hotmail.com



Sectioned Citrus Ambrosia

A colorful, refreshing addition to a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal.

Use an assortment of fruit, especially navel oranges, pink and white grapefruit. With a sharp paring knife, starting at the stem end, peel each piece of fruit. Rotate fruit in hand as you use the sharp knife to remove the peel in a long spiral. When the peel is totally removed, run the knife along each membrane toward the center of the fruit to remove the fruit segments one by one. Do this over a bowl and allow each segment to fall in as you work; squeeze extra juice on top, removing seeds as you go.

Excellent chilled, will keep for a week in the refrigerator. If you wish, add strawberries, grapes, drizzle with honey, sprinkle with grated coconut. Serve from a clear glass container to show off the color of the fruit or spoon into small individual dessert dishes.

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Oklahoma Swiss Representatives Visit

From April 11 to 14, Guillaume Scheurer, Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, and Claudio

including Governor Mary Fallin as well as members of the Swiss communities.

Guillaume Scheurer took the opportunity to lecture about the Swiss governments critical role in representing the interests of



Group picture of members of the Swiss Club of Oklahoma City with Minister Guillaume Scheurer, Deputy Head of Mission, Swiss Embassy Washington (back center with white hair) and Claudio Leoncavallo, Consul General from Atlanta (to the left of Mr. Scheurer)

Leoncavallo, Consul General of Switzerland in Atlanta, visited Oklahoma City and Tulsa to meet State and Local Representatives

the United States in Iran. The Swiss Embassy in Teheran in particular has served as a crucial political and diplomatic bridge

in US-Iranian relations. Minister Scheurer served for four years in Teheran and therefore brought a unique and important perspective to the current diplomatic impasse between the two countries. The various audiences, including students of the Oklahoma University, enjoyed his highly interesting presentation and raised many good questions to the speaker.

A special breakfast event in Oklahoma City was sponsored by Oklahoma Secretary of State Glen Coffee and Secretary of Commerce Dave Lopez while Susan Savage, former Secretary of State and Mayor of Tulsa, gave her full support in making the visit of our Swiss representatives a success.

In Tulsa, both Guillaume Scheurer and Claudio Leoncavallo met with many members of the Swiss Club of Oklahoma who really enjoyed having the opportunity to have personal discussions with



Minister Scheurer lecturing about the Swiss governments critical role in representing the interests of the United States in Iran

such distinguished Swiss officials.

A great "Thank You" goes to Rico Buchli, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Oklahoma, and his spouse Beatrice who had the ambitious task to organize and accompany the guests to all these events.

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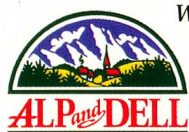
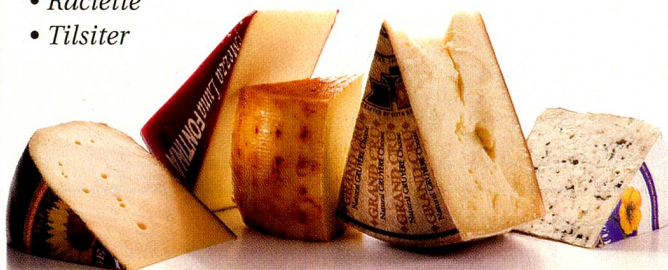
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New York Switzerland below Ground

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Everybody knows that Switzerland wins in the train category when it comes to transportation.

A campaign brought beautiful sceneries of Switzerland to subway cars in New York, compliments of "myswitzerland.com."

The "S"-train, the subway shuttle, runs on a 1.3 km (0.8 miles) route



between Grand Central Station and 42nd Street – Times Square. It was really amazing to see all those breathtaking pictures on the subway car walls, on the seats. Even the outside of the car showed the beauty of Switzerland.

The "Swiss" trains run from mid-April until May 12. As a Swiss it was like going "home" for a few moments.

ROLAND PABST

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www.rolandpabst.com



Excerpts of Roland's blog:

Switzerland below the ground of New York City

It is Monday around noon. Without rush I am walking to the subway taking the S train to 42nd Street. The subway doors close silently. My eyes are catching pictures from Switzerland. Am I dreaming? Wow, the whole train is wrapped into "myswitzerland.com". It looks great.

With the camera in my hands I drive back and forth at least 5 times. I am pretty sure that all my activities are being monitored by the NYC Police Department. They must have put their anti-terrorist crew on high alert. "Watch out there is an innocent looking guy taking the train back and forth - measuring the time, hiding behind a Nikon camera"

It was interesting to observe the passengers. Most people catch the train without being in the presence. A minority looked around and saw those beautiful pictures from Switzerland. I wonder how many New Yorkers booked or will visit Switzerland because of this great advertisement on the S-train?



Arizona

1st of August celebration

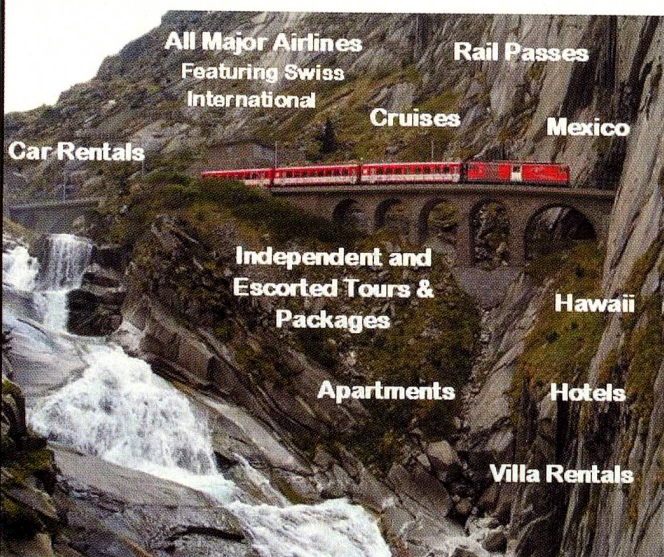
The Prescott, Arizona 1st of August party was held at Groom Creek with a great group of the Prescott Area which includes Sedona and Wickenburg. The club has approximately 25 members. They get together three or four times a year.

TEXT: CHUCK MORRISON,
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California

30+ Women's Water Polo Olympic Club wins Gold Medal

Her name is Danielle Sartori, she is 30 years old, lives in Stockton,

sur for the past 15 years. She has her Swiss citizenship and vacations at her grandmothers house in Bogno, Ticino every few years to visit relatives, friends and travel throughout the countryside.



The winning team: Danielle is the first girl on the right wearing the red cap, next to the man in the black shirt.

Photo: Fotoatleta.it

California and has a passion for water polo. She has been playing since the age of 15, starting at Granada High School in Livermore, CA, then at Pacific University in Stockton, CA from 2000 – 2004. She concentrated on obtaining her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from 2004 – 2006 and has been a volunteer assistant coach from 2007 to the present. Danielle has Swiss origins as both grandparents on her father's side were born in the Ticino region. Both her father (Dennis) and grandfather (Sergio) were past presidents of the Swiss Athletic Club and her aunt Linda Howard Sartori has continued the tradition as trea-



Danielle celebrating her 30th birthday with her mother

Photo: Dominico Tani

This year she had the opportunity to join the 30+ water polo team for the San Francisco

Olympic Club as their goalie and participated at the 14th Annual FINA World Masters Championship in Ricione, Italy. For two weeks in June approximately 15,000 athletes competed in open water and synchronized



Danielle Sartori in full action

Photo: Don Bryan

swimming, diving and water polo. They won game 1 against Casalpalo (Rome) 11 - 9, won game 2 against Pallanuoto (Milan) 12 - 2, lost game 3 against Golfo Paradiso (Genova) 5 - 8, won game 4 against Hohenlimberger (Germany) 14 - 3. For the Championship, they had to play against Golfo Paradiso which was their only loss, but this time they won 8 - 6 and took home the Gold Medal. Not only was this a redemption for their solo

loss, it also happened to be Danielle's 30th birthday which added to the special day. Today she is a physical therapist and a certified strength and conditioning specialist at Lodi Physical Therapy and the PUMP Institute located in Lodi, CA. She continues to play with the Olympic Club team and plans to travel to Montreal, Canada in 2014 to defend the title of Masters World Champions.

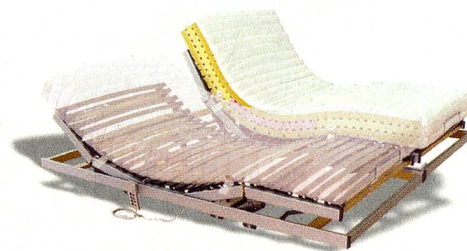
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Here are some links if you would like to check out Swiss trains:

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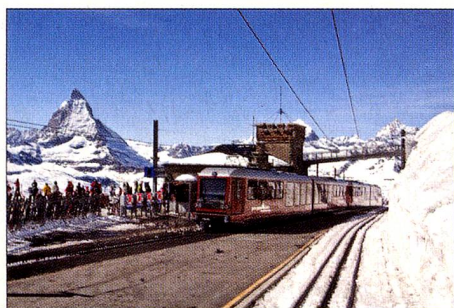
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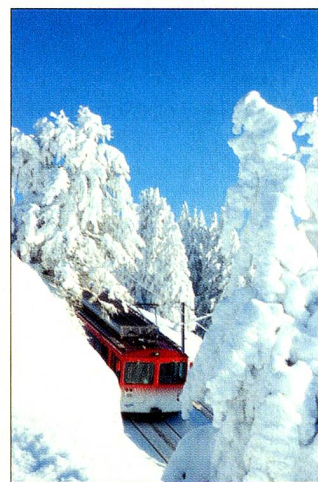
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