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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

King Aduldet and Queen Sarikit of Thailand have paid a three days' official visit to the Swiss Confederation on 29th to 31st August.

As the royal couple had already settled for an extended stay in the canton of Vaud, Federal Councillor P. Chaudet, M. Aman, *chef du protocol*, and Divisional Colonel R. de Diesbach called on them at their residence, "Flonzaley", and conducted them to the station of Puidoux — Chexbres, where they were welcomed, on behalf of the Government of the canton of Vaud, by M. Despland, President of the States Council.

The distinguished visitors and their suite then left for Berne by special train, where Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, accompanied by Mr. Fritz Moser, President of the Bernese Government, Monsieur Erwin Bernath, Swiss Ambassador in Bangkok, and M. Charles Oser, Federal Chancellor, welcomed them at the railway station. They were then taken to the "Lohn", their residence during their official visit.

In the afternoon, Federal Councillor F. Wahlen called on the royal couple and their suite at the "Lohn" and conducted them to the "Bärengraben", where they entered open carriages. Amidst the ringing of bells and a salvo of guns they drove through the gaily decorated streets of the capital to the Palais Fédéral, where Monsieur M. Petitpierre, addressed the visitors. The King and the President then inspected the guard of honour, whilst a military band played the Thailand national anthem.

The President then introduced to the royal visitors the members of the Federal Council, who were assembled in the Foyer of the Palais Fédéral, and welcomed them on behalf of the Government and the Swiss population. The King expressed his and the Queen's pleasure at being the guests of the Confederation.

The visitors were then driven back to the "Lohn", where they met the members of the diplomatic corps. In the evening the Federal Council gave a State banquet at the Hotel Bellevue Palace.

On the following days the King visited various military establishments in Berne and Thun, whilst the Queen visited industrial concerns and hospitals. In the evening the King and Queen of Thailand offered a banquet to the Federal Council, at which high government and military officials attended.

* * *

The Swiss Government has expelled two French Embassy officials for having been implicated in espionage. The names of the men were given by the police as Robert Cardi, an attaché, and Eugène Genot, an Embassy official. The Government statement did not state the nature of the information or for whom it was obtained.

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The Swiss Federal authorities have forbidden Professor Francis Jeanson, the French left-wing writer, to enter Switzerland.

* * *

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a congratulatory message to Archbishop Makarios on the occasion of the Independence celebrations, which signifies that Switzerland recognises the Independence of Cyprus.

* * *

Mr. Werner Hirs, Swiss Consul in Cleveland, has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Mr. O. Goetz, Swiss Consul at Nairobi. Mr. H. Grob, until recently Vice-Consul in Los Angeles, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Nairobi.

* * *

Mr. Timothy Josef Horan, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Eire, has presented his credentials to Federal Councillors Chaudet and Tschudy at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of July 1960 amount to 117.5 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 82.1 million francs, or 12.9 million francs more than in July 1959. During the first seven months of the current year the receipts amount to 503.4 million francs, which is 89.1 million francs more than during the same period in 1959.

Cantonal

The medical faculty of the University of Zurich has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Fräulein Maria Meyer, of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Watches and jewellery to the value of 120,000.—francs were stolen from the jewellery establishment, W. Meister, A.G., at the Bahnhofstrasse in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Jacques Oertli-Lüthi (33), of Ennetbühl nr. Glarus, lost his life whilst on an ascent of the "Nordwand" of the Vorderen Eggstock. [A.T.S.]

Heavy damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Korkfabrik Gebr. Schlittler A.G.", in Näfels. [A.T.S.]

Ernst Schmid (54), an S.B.B. employee, of Ossigen (Ct. Zurich), lost his life when gathering "Edelweiss" at the Breitkamm (Glarner Alpen). [A.T.S.]

The 38th "Auslandschweizertagung" took place in Berne, on 20th and 21st August, under the presidency of Dr. Gerhard Schürch, who in opening the meeting, which was held in the "Nationalratssaal", greeted the delegates and members of the Federal Administration, the Bernese authorities and the diplomatic and consular corps representatives. Mr. O. H. Halbheer, and M. René Bovey, general secretary of the N.S.H., spoke on the work for Swiss abroad.

Federal Councillor Tschudy, who presented the greetings of the Government and the Swiss population, spoke on "Solidarität mit den Auslandschweizern, und der Auslandschweizer unter sich". After the meeting a reception was held at the "Rathaus", during which States Councillor Buri spoke on behalf of the Bernese authorities. [A.T.S.]

During climbing practice on the "Steingletscher" (Sustenpass) two soldiers fell forty feet on to a snowfield. Whilst one received only slight injuries, the other, Walter Theis (18), commercial employee of Burgdorf, was killed. [A.T.S.]

On 14th August 1960, the population of Bienne numbered 60,000. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Theo Wanner, a member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, has tendered his resignation on reaching retirement age. [A.T.S.]

A man, in the absence of the staff, entered a "Change" office at the Piazza Funicolare in Lugano and decamped with 4,000.—francs in cash. [A.T.S.]

A lorry heavily laden with fruit collided with one of the public fountains in the main street of Morges. Both the fountain and lorry were severely damaged. [A.T.S.]

M. F. Bourquin (Socialist) has been elected a member of the Government of the Canton of Neuchâtel, in succession to M. André Sandoz, who has been appointed Mayor of this town of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

Goods valued at over 10,000.—francs were stolen from a jeweller's establishment in the Rue des Alpes, Geneva. [A.T.S.]

M. Charles Knecht, chief of the Geneva police, has been granted leave until 31st December 1960, to take up the post of "special attaché" to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Hammarskjöld, in the Congo. [A.T.S.]

A show-window of the jewellery shop at the Rue Bonivard in Geneva was smashed and watches valued at several thousand francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARY

Jakob Probst (80), of Basle, eminent sculptor. Amongst his many works erected in Basle, Bienne and Geneva may be mentioned the Hodler monument in Geneva and the "Schlachten Denkmal" at Dornach. [A.T.S.]

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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Louis Thevenaz, for many years head of the Neuchâtel record office, and President of the Historical and Archæological Society, Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 78.

Professor Dr. Otto Tschumi, in Berne, aged 82. The deceased was at one time a teacher of History at the *Gymnasium* in Berne, and a "Dozent für Urgeschichte" at the University of Berne.

Dr. Adeles Stoecklin, from 1937 to 1955 secretary of the "Schweiz. Instituts für Volkskunde", in Basle, at the age of 84.

Jean-Baptist Bavier, a former "Forstmeister", in Chur, aged 80.

Georges Oltramare, author and politician, in Geneva, at the age of 64.

The deceased was editor of the paper "Le Pileri" and founder of the "Ordre politique national". Among his comedies are best known "Le rat d'hôtel" and "Don Juan où la solitude".

Colonel Otto Gloor, for 37 years District Attorney of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 71. [A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

The heirs of the late Mr. Jakob Baenziger-Faerber, of Lutzenberg (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), made a donation amounting to 12,000.— francs towards the cost of a gymnasium.

The late Dr. Emil Robert Pfisterer, dealer in works of art in Aarau, has left 40,000.— francs to the town of Aarau for the poor and sick of the town.

The late Joh. Heinrich Suesli, commercial representative, of Zurich, has left 31,000.— francs to various charitable institutions.

Frau Witwe Marie Wiederkehr-Lüdin, who died at the age of 85, in Winterthur, has left 80,000.— francs to various church and charitable institutions, and 60,000.— francs to the town of Winterthur for cultural purposes.

The late Frl. Hedwig Kübler, a teacher of languages, of Winterthur, has left 40,000.— francs for needy orphans. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Schuler-Ammann of Winterthur, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mörgeli-Mörgeli of Nussberg (Ct. Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. J. Schurpf-Graf of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. S. Mani-Schaub of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. K. Mick-Danzeisen of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. H. Boeniger-Kundert of Nidfurn (Ct. Glarus).

Mr. and Mrs. A. Graf-Noetzli of Wetzikon (Ct. Zurich), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Sonderegger-Rüegg of St. Gall, have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

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MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS

The Swiss composer, Rudolf Moser, a teacher at the music academy of Basle, lost his life on an ascent of the Piz Julier. He was born at Niederuzwil and is a citizen of Herzogenbuchsee. Moser studied at the Conservatoires of Leipzig and Basle. In 1928 he was appointed a teacher at the Conservatoire Basle, and later on at the Music Academy of that town. He leaves a great many works for organ and orchestra. Moser is considered to be one of the most eminent of Swiss composers.

Two men on a climbing expedition lost their lives on the Grossen Mythen. They were Klaus Neff (24) cand. jur., of Rickenbach nr. Schwyz, and Gebhard Bischof (22), of Schwyz.

Three mountaineers were killed on an ascent to the "Sattelhorn" in the Lötschental. They were Erwin Loretz (26), of Zurich, Pius Willy (17), of Berne, and Heinrich Conrad (17), of St. Gall.

Three alpinists crashed to death whilst ascending the "Engelhörner" (Rosenlaui). They were Rosa Moor (19), Hans Naegeli (18), and Hermann Leuthold (16), all of Innertkirchen. [A.T.S.]

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Between Schwarzenburg and Mannishaus two motor-cyclists were involved in a head-on collision. One of the motor-cyclists, Walter Gilgen (26), of Schwarzenburg, was killed, and the other was taken to hospital for attention.

Adolf Loeffel (71), of Busswil, whilst walking on the road between Nidau and Ipsach, was run over and killed by a car.

Two persons were killed and one seriously injured when two motor-cars collided near Gfenn and Hegnau. Those killed were Friedrich Linder (53), of Zurich, and his wife Elizabeth (43).

A serious accident, costing the lives of five persons, occurred on the Sustenpass above the Hotel Steingletscher. A large piece of rock fell on the road burying a motor-car. The car caught fire and all the occupants lost their lives. They were Walter Hoesli, master-builder, of Glarus, and his wife, Mrs. Luise Michel-Hoesli, of Interlaken, and her daughter Alice, and Margaret Moreillon (10), of Gryon (Ct. Vaud).

A motor-coach carrying thirty-six English tourists collided with a tramway-car at the Laupenring-Neubadstrasse in Basle. Nine of the occupants of the coach were taken to hospital, but were later discharged. The party continued their tour in a Swiss coach.

Two persons were killed and four injured when three cars were involved in a collision on the Simplon Pass near the village of Ardon. Those killed were Mlle. Claude Aerni (26), of Lausanne, and Dario Galloppo, of Italy.

Between Laufenburg and Eiken (Ct. Aargau) a motor-car collided with a train at a level-crossing. All the passengers of the motor-car were killed; they were Marcel Salzgeber (35), of St. German (Valais), Frau Engelhelma Schweri (26) and Alois Schweri (26), both of Saas Fee.

Three persons lost their lives when a motor-car crashed into a tree at the Quai Perdonnet in Vevey. Those killed were G. A. Yersin (23) mechanic, Marlette Conne (18), of Lausanne, and P. A. Manoutscher (17), of Milan.

A motor-car driven by Dr. rev. pol. Rudolf Zueger, of Zurich, on overtaking another car on the Weinlandbrücke in Andelfingen, crashed through the coping and fell thirty metres into the river Thur. The driver was killed. [A.T.S.]

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VARIOUS

According to statistics published in the periodical "Die Alpen", 151 mountain accidents occurred during the season 1959/60. Ninety-six persons lost their lives, and ninety-three suffered injuries. [A.T.S.]